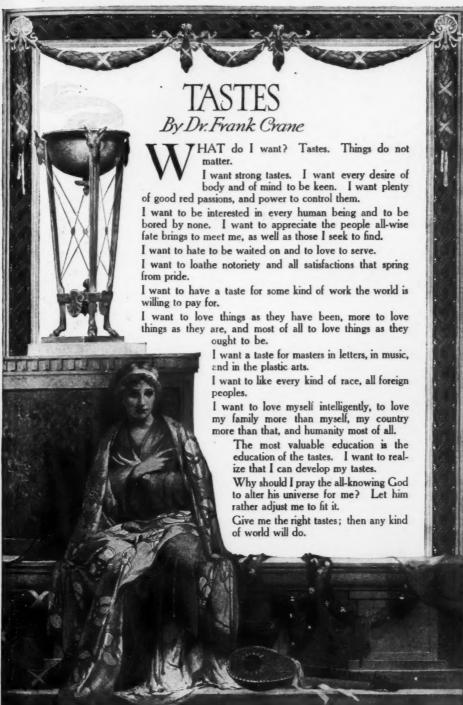


Jumps Right Into House Cleaning



Old Dutch! Cleanser





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A Daughter of New York

The author calls his heroine "a daughter of New York," but why limit her to the metropolis? There is surely something typically American in the bearing and point of view of Ottie, for has she not, through that freedom which girls of this land enjoy as nowhere else, developed a sense of responsibility toward herself and others which serves her better than the old conventional restrictions would do? Note how she never, for one moment, loses sight of the destiny which a level-headed estimate of what she may expect from life holds out to her. There need be no fear of moral catastrophe to this wise and responsible young person. An admirable character is Miss Ottie Cutter, and one from whose acquaintance much pleasure and profit will be derived.

By Owen Johnson

Illustrated by Harrison Fisher

"HATCHYA not going up this week again? You're getting as bad as the brokers."

I turned in surprise, gazing at the young lady who had just read my telegram announcing an intention to remain in the city.

"The 'Mrs.' refers to my mother," I

"Old stuff!" she replied, with a contemptuous tilt of her nose.

It was my first conscious introduction to Miss Ottie Cutter, at the telegraph-counter in the howling spaces of the temporary Grand Central Station. She was about eighteen, dressed for a thé dansant at a Fifth Avenue restaurant, a profusion of black hair spilled about the outlines of her clear forehead, with a general tendency downward over the left eyebrow, a thin, impertinently tipped nose, brilliant teeth, and steady gray eyes, not averse to being admired. Three or four pencils, plunged in the back of her hair, were sported in Japanese style.

"So you remembered I sent a telegram last Saturday," I said curiously.

"Sure. I know a lot about you, though you never had no time to notice me," she said, with a little grieved smile. "Other folks—men folks are more condescending."

At this we were interrupted. A large,

blond young man of forty, with a jovial eye, shook hands, saying:

"Hello, Ottie; in the deuce of a rush! Blank and pencil, quick!"

I drew off a bit, curiosity aroused, waiting the departure of the rather racy gentleman whom she had addressed as Mr. Polk. It was deep in the month of August, and the temporary station was white with the massed splashes of filmy blouses and the shifting surfaces of straw head-gear. From the telephone-booth opposite and the near-by candy-stall, I became aware of nervous, inquisitorial eyes peering above the desk-tops. Ottie herself undoubtedly rejoiced in these feminine tributes, for she sped the jovial Mr. Polk on his way with an accentuated playfulness, and turned to me with a languishing charm which seemed to me more calculated to impress a distant audience.

"He's a broker," she said, with a wise nod. "Gee, I'd never marry a broker! They're a loose lot. See that!" She held up a blank. "Telegram to friend wifey: 'Missed the six o'clock. Can't get up this week. Love and affection."

"But—"I interposed, with a glance at the gigantic disk which registered, at this moment, just ten minutes after five.

"You don't get it? My cue is to hold this

till six-thirty before sending it through. Underline 'Love and affection.' What do you think of that? There was a girl, Fanny Lane, here oncet, over at the telephones, who was all airs because she had one of those Charley boys from Wall Street slipping her candy and flowers. She hooked him, too. The grand exit she made, shaking hands airily all over the station-with O'Dwyer, even, over at the baggage-smash. Not because she loved us-oh, no!-telephone-buzzers is cats, all except Rosetta, my chum, the girl with the blond curls looking over here, trying to place you. Well, in six weeks she had to divorce him and go on the stage, he was that promiscuous."
"So your name's Ottie?" I said, smiling.

"So your name's Ottie?" I said, smiling.
"My name's Miss Cutter, until I give you leave," she said sternly, and her polished fingers set to swinging a little gold cross

pendent from her neck.

"Very well; I hope I shall deserve the privilege soon," I replied, with new interest, realizing that the type was complex.

"Good-afternoon, Miss Cutter."

"Hold up!" she said, instantly relenting. "Hang around a bit more. There's Minnie Schwank, the girl with the auburn hair—dyed—at the soda-and-candy, rubbering her eyes off. It gives her the willies every time I get any attention. The only steady she ever had was a bow-legged old German from the umbrella store that the girls scared off with their joshing. What! Yer' going? Come soon. And, say, go out past Minnie. Look at her steadily, so she'll know we've been picking her over."

On the next occasion when I stopped for a further revelation, Ottie was leaning over the counter, receiving, with indifferent interest, the complimentary glances of a smitten youth of sixteen, with cauliflower ears, in the uniform of a messenger. Perceiving my approach, she waved the awkward squad from the scene by an imperious gesture and straightened up, a little confused to have been surprised thus condescending.

"How are you to-day, Miss Cutter?" I said, with exaggerated punctiliousness, perceiving in the distance the rebellious figure of the dismissed youth waddling sul-

lenly away.
"Next time you can make it 'Ottie,'"

she said, eying me favorably.

"I'm afraid you're a predatory person a sad flirt," I added, with a nod toward the dismissed. "Pooh; all them young boys are mushy!" she said frankly. "O'Toole—that's the feller—he's got it worse than the others. He sidles over here each chancet he gets. Oh, he's real lovesick!"

"Poor chap!" I said seriously.

"Why?" she said innocently. "If it wasn't me, it'd be another, wouldn't it? Sure and I keep him out of trouble and make him wash up, too!"

Before this defense, I retreated.

"How's Polk?"

"I had to call him down," she said indignantly. "What do you think? He had the nerve to ask me out!"

"You are very strict?"

"With the married bunch—nixie for me! Nothing doing!"

"Perhaps your manner deceived him," I suggested maliciously.

To my surprise, she pondered this seriously, a little troubled.

"Do you think I'm too forward?" she asked anxiously.

"I don't think so."

"I'm nacheral," she said. "Course I like attention; that's why I took up with this. I don't do it 'cause I have to. No; I like the chancet to meet people," she added, with a shade of longing in her eyes.

It was said so genuinely that it was as though a great door had opened on a life which had not been within my ken. After all, what more natural? Why should not she, a daughter of New York, have the same curiosity in life, the same need of the human panorama as we others, and, in her own way, create the opportunity? In a few years, what would become of her? Marriage with one of her own world, probably. And then what? A flat and drudgery, with only her mission to tend and continue the race, that, in a dozen generations or less, perhaps, one human atom might emerge from the mass and produce something that would stir a fraction the body of society.

"Whatchya thinking?" she said, noticing

my abstraction.

"Polk is a pig. He has no fine instincts," I said hastily.

"I knew I was going to like you," she said softly. "Sure I know all about you—you're a writer."

I showed my surprise and a certain grati-

fication.

"Sure I read a piece of your'n. That's nice work—being a writer," she added

meditatively, as though weighing the profession against her own.

"Does this seem rather hard?" I ven-

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"Oh, no; much genteeler than being at the 'phones. A girl there gets no chancet to talk to people."

"I suppose you get a day off?"

"Sure—Sundays. "Coney Island?"

She looked at me dubiously, as though scenting an improper advance. My socially

correct expression reassured her.

"Oh, Î like Coney-particularly the camels," she said, nodding. Suddenly her eyes focused on some spot in the crowd; her fingers tightened impulsively on my arm, and she said: "See that slim chap with blond hair talking to Pearl Stevens, the girl at the sodas-that's Lannigan-Eddie. All the girls are that crazy over him. brother's a chauffeur. He wants me to go joy-riding with him next Sunday. He's talking to Pearl, because he sees you over here and he wants to get me up in the air."

"He's the steady, then?"

"He's one of them," she said, correcting "He certainly's got awful nice ways for a ticket-puncher. He's young, too, for that. Did you ever see anyone go on like that Pearl Stevens? He threw her down when he got introduced to me. She's been raging all over the depot ever since. See him look over here?"

"There must be a great deal of competition?" I suggested, with a glance at the busy telephone-booths, the candy-counter,

and the news-stands.

"I don't associate much with the others. Most of them ain't got any education, though they do dress fierce. There's a girl at the magazines they say 's rather refined, and, of course, Rosetta-my chum. We was to high school together. But the rest"she dismissed them with an aristocratic wave of her hand—"they're too free and easy for me. They'd pick up with anything that would run 'em into the 'movies'honest!"

"You're very strict."

"A girl has got to be," she answered

As I progressed in her confidence, I found that her laws of conduct were based on the most rigid distinction between bachelors and those whom she considered loyally the property of other women. At the fourth meeting, she became more confidential, evidently having made up her mind that I was worthy to receive or, which is more probable and quite feminine, hoping I might, some day, translate her to the printed page, to the discomfiture of Pearl Stevens and Minnie Schwank, as well as the four pairs of eyes which were trained on us

from the booths.

She told me, with a show of pride, that her father was inspector in the customs office, one brother was a stenographer in a judicial court, and another was shortly going on the force. There were two sisters who were too young to count, and two older who had married—one to an electrician who made fifty dollars a week and was saving up for a second-hand car, and the other had entrusted her life to an ovster-broker who seemed to have the makings of the family fortune but who had cruelly deserted her. Ottie herself was just a year out of high school, sang in a choir in a down-town church, and had every intention of marrying after she had seen a little more of the world. When I questioned further, she confessed that, though her heart had never yet received a tremor, there were two eligibles (she called them "prospects") whom she had in serious consideration and intended to retain-a dark, middle-aged Franco-American floor-walker in a large department store, very frugal with his savings, and a young man of her own age, comrade of the high school, who had already saved a hundred dollars as an instructor in physical culture, with dancing on the side. She believed in his future, but she was rather doubtful of the class of women to which his evening performances in fashionable restaurants subjected him. As for the passing throng of the station, she rated them frankly as triflers, confessing that her object was more a desire for feminine superiority than any sentimental need. In the course of this history, she did not hesitate to inject profound criticisms of customs and manners. Her orthodoxy was unobjectionable and her illusions as yet unshattered, though she admitted that her general attitude toward the opposite sex was one of modified suspicion, and to her own of confirmed distrust.

On the counter, crowded into an ordinary drinking-glass, was a bouquet of wild flowers, yellow and white over a spray of green, a brave display amid the dust and lit-

ter of clicking instruments.

"Fond of flowers, I see," I remarked ten-

"Crazy about 'em! Fellow up the road -commuter-is going to bring me a bunch every morning," she added frankly.

"And where do you place him?" I asked.

"Married or eligible?"

Then she expounded a new philosophy. Her counter was her castle, it seemed. There, the male sex was not subjected to a division between the sheep and the goats. All tributes could be accepted on a professional basis. Outside, in her social world, things were different, and rules of conduct

must be rigidly enforced.

"His name is Perkins," she added. "Course I've only known him a few days. . Eddie—that's Lannigan—made an awful scene about my accepting flowers from a stranger—making myself conspicuous. He says he's seen him with chorus girls in midnight feeding-houses, but O'Toole, he says Lannigan is just plumb jealous and trying to poison my mind. Course O'Toole's jealous, too. I made it clear to both what I been tellin' you. The fellers I talk to here get no call to an introduction outside.'

"Exactly. It's like an actress receiving flowers over the footlights, isn't it?" I

suggested artfully.

She laughed at this.

"That's a good one. I'll work it on 'em. Between you and me, Perkins thinks he's a masher. I'd like to give him a jolt. Sure you can tell them the first time the way they look at you."

"How do they look at you?" I asked

curiously.

"Soapy eyes-purry sort of a voice. Course a girl who's had no experience sometimes falls for that. Pearl Stevens 's been dving to attract him, looking at him boldly as he passes. Yes, she did, and even rattled a box of sweets once under his eyes and said in a baby lisp, 'Anything sweet to-day?' What do you think of that for forwardness? Sure he told me himself." She added, a moment later, with a little contraction of the eyebrows: "I'm not strong on him, either. He ain't very refined-but it spoils Pearl Stevens' digestion, and that's something, after all."

"Then it must have a rather good effect

on Lannigan, too," I ventured. She smiled in appreciation.

"Lannigan's started in to mope."

"And O'Toole?"

"Dicky? That boy? Sure he knows I only let him play around to keep him out of trouble. All he minds is Lannigan. He's grinning all over. You've stayed long enough now-I've got a bunch of telegrams to get off. But drop in soon-you're a feller you can talk to!"

It was several weeks after this disillusioning experience before I saw Ottie again. O'Toole, the messenger with the cauliflower ears, was at the booth in a languishing attitude, while on the counter, ostentatiously brought forward, was a dazzling cluster of pink roses and violets dominated by twin

"Where you been?" said Ottie joyfully, shoving away O'Toole with a merciless finger. "Sure I missed you a lot."

I explained that I had been on a visit in

"You've got a fine burn," she said appreciatively. "I suppose you'll be sending hurry messages to some fairy now."

"No such luck, Ottie."

"Well, anyhow, don't go over to another office to send 'em," she persisted. "It's been awful dull since you went. All the old mashers take a rest to the end of August. Nothing but straight messages for weeks. However, yesterday Polk got back; there'll be something doing now.

"How's life with you?"

"I've been going out a lot," she said languidly.

I laid my hand on the heavily scented bouquet.

"What's this mean? Perkins?"

"I should think not!" she said indignantly. "That's Lannigan."

"You don't say so!" I exclaimed, with a glance which rapidly estimated the probable cost. "Roses-and lilies, too!"

"Sure they're expensive," she said, with a toss of her head. "That's what I getevery day. Oh, Lannigan's some spender! There's nothing cheap about that feller."

"Perhaps he's got a brother in the florist business?" I suggested, at loss to account for this magnificence on the salary which the New Haven Railroad accords its non-

speculative employees.

"That don't concern me," said Ottie indifferently. "O'Toole tells me everybody in the station is in a fever of excitement over it. Pearl Stevens, over at the candy-andsoda, is that sick over it she switched to the north side so she couldn't see the floral

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"Rosetta, my chum, the girl with the blond curls looking over here, trying to place you"

display. But I got even with her. I took a bunch of blush roses over to Minnie Schwank, and told her I hadn't room enough and wouldn't she accept them to brighten up the counter a little.

"So Lannigan's neglecting the candy-

counter now?

"Sure that was all a game of his," she said loftily. "He never took her outthough she hinted to him fierce. Sure he told me. As for Pearl Stevens, I didn't tell you-did I?-what a fuss she used to put up over some miserable daisies and buttercups a feller brought her from up the road. Sure she did; she used to put them right on top the desk-customers was always knocking 'em over. Say, when Lannigan came over with these-with the real stuffshe lost her nerve, and say-the feller, he came up with violets-nothing but violets for a week-and then he quit-couldn't stand the competition. I found out all about him. He's a grocer's clerk putting out a bluff. She can have him."

At this moment, her glance fastened on some point in the merging crowd. She raised the bouquet to her impertinent nose,

and smiled right under my eyes.
"Ottie," I said severely, "if you're going to use me to flirt with another man-

She said hastily: "Sure it was Lannigan passing. I seen Pearl Stevens peeking around the counter, that's all.

"Speaking of Lannigan," I said, still mystified, "how long has this magnificence been going on?"

"Oh, a week Monday."

"You must have made Lannigan believe you liked him pretty well, young lady," I said, in the admonitory tone I sometimes fell into with Ottie.

"Sure I like flowers," she said, opening her eyes in surprise; "I just dote on 'em."

"Is Lannigan rated as a serious prospect, then," I pursued mercilessly, "along with the floor-walker and the exponent of physical culture?"

"Lannigan-a ticket-puncher? Are you

kidding me?"

"Ottie," I said, shaking my head, "I'm afraid, after all, you're like your sisters on Fifth Avenue—just a reckless little grafter."

"What's wrong with my accepting Lannigan's flowers?" she said defiantly.

"It's leading him on, and you know you have no serious intentions. You just said so."

"But how's a girl to know if she'll change her mind?" she said, after a moment's profound thought. "Don't you see the

"Ottie, I will not argue with you," I said firmly. "It is a question on which I have never been able to convince any

"Sure you're worse than O'Toole," she said, with a glance to the newspaper-stand, where that ungainly youth was lolling miserably.

I shook hands ceremoniously and departed, by way of the dejected O'Toole, who morbidly waited, his glance hopelessly set on the gallant bouquet prominently brought

forward.

During the next ten days I found several occasions to drop in for a chat with Ottie. and watch developments. Regularly, each day, with the coming of the morning shift, Lannigan arrived with a fresh bouquet. The telephone-girls were in a pitch of fury, according to Ottie. Minnie Schwank and Pearl Stevens were in such a state of jealousy that they cut Lannigan dead. O'Toole, completely eclipsed, was the picture of youthful despair, vowing there was some dark mystery underneath it all. And still the amazing bouquets continued to arrive, to the envy of the entire feminine population of the station with the exception of the triumphant Ottie.

With the worst of motives, I confess, I stopped at the candy-counter directly before the pale-blue eyes of Pearl Stevens, who was aggressively perfumed. Probably she did me the honor to believe me jealous of Lannigan and seeking outward sympathy.

"What do you think of them goings-on?" she said instantly, eliminating useless pre-

I tried to look blank and uncomprehend-

"Aw, you know well enough what I Guess your nose's a little out of joint."

I facetiously felt of the imperiled feature. "It's scandalous," she said angrily, "the way that minx leads him on. Everybody in the station's watching them-and him a married man, too."
"Lannigan?" I said, amazed.

"Sure!" she said spitefully. ain't Lannigan she's after. It's his brother -he's a chauffeur. She'll drop Eddie as soon as she gets an introduction. What some girls won't do to be seen driving in a joy-wagon!"

"But how does Lannigan afford it?" I asked, again from the lowest of motives.

"That's what everyone's asking," she said, with a staring challenge at Ottie, who was watching us. "Sure any girl could get Lannigan who wanted to throw herself at his head. If you want my opinion, I'll tell you. Something's going to happen and happen soon, and, when it does, the whole wretched story will be smeared all over the front pages of the morning papers."

"Elopement?" I said, with simulated anx-

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She shrugged her shoulders.

"Murder — drama of jealousy — other woman?"

She did not deny the possibility.

"At least she'll wreck his life," she said angrily. "You betcha life his superiors have their eyes on him now—a ticket-puncher who spends a month's salary on a woman like that—every week! Where does he get it?"

I left Pearl Stevens and went thoughtfully across the tide of insurging masses to Ottie, who received me with *hauteur*.

"Whatchya saying to her?" she asked

pointblank.

"Ottie," I said, in impressive tones, "I have received alarming information."

"What lie has she been giving you?" she said scornfully.

she said scormuly.

"I am told that Lannigan is a married man."

"She told you that, did she?"
"That—and other things."

"She didn't tell you that he was divorced, did she? She didn't say anything about that?"

"Why, no," I admitted.

"Sure he told me all about it," she said rapidly. "Twas four years ago. The poor fellow's had an unforchunate life. She drank like a fish. He married her to reform her. He's got a kind heart—Lannigan. He knew her folks over in Ireland. Sure she was nothing but a waitress in the hurry-up lunch over there when he met her and gave her a social position. And was she grateful? She was not. She drank up everything in the house—the kerosene out the lamps, even. She'd been doing it all the time, but she never let him know. Did he turn her out of doors? No; he stuck by her, tried to uplift her, and all that sort of thing.

And how did she repay him? She ran off with the owner of a canal-boat, and he's never had a word from her since."

She crossed her arms and said defiantly, choosing her words as she did when she wished to be particularly crushing,

"He's nothing to me; but I want to say that I consider what he did was distinctly to his credit."

"Are you sure he's divorced?" I said, for her warm defense had left me unconvinced as to herself.

"He told me so himself," she said.

"Do you mean that his intentions are serious?" I said solemnly. "I hope, Ottie, you are not meeting him—ahem!—socially outside."

"I mean nothing at all—but what it's nobody's business it a gentleman chooses to present me with flowers in a respectable way," she said, with terrific incisiveness.

I chose to make a personal allusion of this rejoinder, and departed stiffly, despite her hurried and relenting call. So, after all, Ottie was as feminine as her sisters, and bright gifts could dazzle her eyes and turn the edges of the rules of conduct.

Another visit took me from the city for ten days. When I again threaded my way through the arriving mob to the main waiting-room, I became aware of a new note. At the candy-counter, Pearl Stevens and Minnie Schwank were laughing boisterously at O'Toole, who passed radiant and assured; nor was Ottie the proud and haughty belle of the week before, and on the counter were no flowers.

"How's life?" I asked, in the stock greeting.

She gave me her hand in a lackadaisical way, heavy gloom over the clear brow.

"Why, Ottie, what's wrong?" I exclaimed. "What's happened? The flowers? Lannigan?"

"Don't talk to me of that cheap sport!" she said, bridling up. "Never speak his name to me again!"

"But what—tell me!" I cried, in the proper tone of alarm and commiseration.

She turned away, her hand at her throat, and when she looked at me again, her eyes were flashing and on her cheeks were sudden, indignant flurries of red.

"It's very painful—I don't know's I can bear to refer to it. I never was so humiliated—so put down in all my life," she said, with a quick breath. "All I got to be thankful for is I never went out with him, with all the coaxing he gave me. My name ain't coupled with his like that."

"So Lannigan's a deceiver?" I said, divining the source of the trouble.

"It was all about them flowers," she said abruptly: "you remember?"

"I remember," I said, nodding, "very expensive gifts for a ticket-puncher—as a

steady offering."

"Well, after what you said to me—about grafting like a swell, you remember," she said pensively, "I began to feel sort of remorseful. I began to figure up. I couldn't see how he could afford 'em either. Then there was Dicky-O'Toole, you know-who was poisoning my mind, putting all kinds of dark thoughts into it.

"'At least five plunks for them,' he'd say, when Lannigan would leave a new bunch. 'Lilies is a dollar apiece to-day; I looked it up at the flower-booth,' or: 'Well, there goes a week's salary. He must be robbing the till somewhere. You can't make me

believe them's honest flowers.'

"Well, you know, I got sort of affected by all this-sort of wondering if Lannigan was that dippy over me that he was ruining himself. So I says to him pointblank, one day, ""See here, Eddie, can you afford these

things-now, honest?'

"'Don't you worry. I spend my money easy-I'm no tightwad,' he said. O'Toole was listening.

"'But where do you get them?' I said. 'You must have spent a forchin, Eddie.'

"'I get 'em where I get 'em,' he says loftily. 'They come from the finest in New York—remember that,' he says, and walks off with the manner of a royal spender.

"I looked at Dicky and he looked at me. The poor boy was ready to break his heart,

he was that cut up over it.

"'They're not honest flowers,' he says, shaking his head. 'Dunno how he gets

'em, but they're not honest.'

"'Before you make any more insinuations about the character of Mr. Lannigan,' I said, 'suppose you bring me some proof. And, furthermore, I wish to remark that I never remember you offering me even an honest dandelion!'

"He went off in a huff at this. I was rather sharp, but then he had got me all in a state of nerves. The same night, who should come over but Pearl Stevens, just as bold as that. My, but she must have been raging inside!

"'My dear, what expensive flowers you get!' she said, in her cool way.

"'Oh, really, do you think so?' I says, as though I was bored to death.

"'And every day, too!'

"'Sweet of Lannigan, isn't it?' I says, looking her in the eye.

"'I hope it don't get him in trouble,' she says, with a cold nerve. 'Of course I shouldn't care to let a man spend so much money on me unless he had respectable

intentions.

"With that she flounces off, simpering. The next day, in comes Lannigan with liliesof-the-valley, heliotropes, and forget-menots enough for a bride. So to get even, I sent him over to the sodas to ask for an extra glass. Course Pearl Stevens turned him down indignantly, but she upset a whole tray of marshmallows in her agitation and got fined for it. Rage? Every girl in the place was looking daggers at me. They'd walk up and down, sort of sniffing the perfume, unable to believe their eyes, and every one of them had been crazy to get Lannigan, too. Sure they was all fighting for him-his brother's a chauffeur, you know. Excitement! The air was full of it. You could hear the tongues clattering worse than a ticker. O'Toole was so mopey he wouldn't come round. All he'd do was to sit a mile off and mutter to himself.

"But the next day all was different. "Lannigan hadn't no sooner come in with the lilies and the roses than up comes

"And, say, the moment I saw him sneaking up, I knew something was doing. He was happy all over—a changed person. He certainly was.

"'Nice flowers,' he says, with a sneery look. "'Well?' said I, waiting for what he

really meant. "'You think Lannigan's quite a sport,

don't you?"

"'Oh, rather,' says I.

"'Makes quite a hit with you the way he flings his money around?'

"He has not many imitators,' says I

coldly.

""Well, I guess I could put on some side myself, if I cared to do what he does,' he says, and starts to move away.

"'Hold on!' says I. 'You've said too much-you've got to say all.'

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I heard my name called frantically and,

wheeling, beheld Ottie.

Despite the coquetry of her costume, the white-felt hat in aureole and the gorgeous gold of her sweater-coat, I perceived at once in the submerged gray eyes a note of genuine distress. As far as I could see, she was alone.

"Why, Ottie!" I exclaimed. "What are

you doing here?"

"I'm lost," she said tearfully, clinging to my hand. "I've been looking and looking everywhere. I don't know what's become of Rosetta. We was separated at the chutes. I can't find her anywhere."

"You were alone-just you two?" I

asked anxiously.

She glanced at Atkinson, who had brightened up perceptibly, and answered quietly,

"Yes; me and Rosetta."

It seemed to me that the hand on my arm tightened spasmodically with a quick warning, but of this intention I could not be sure.

How long have you been separated?"

"Over an hour."

In her voice was something not entirely

"Well, we'll have to help you find Rosetta," I said, in as heavy a tone as I could muster to conceal my thankfulness for the dispensations of Providence. I turned to Atkinson to make the formal introduction.

"Bob," I said severely, for I perceived in his smile that touch of delighted surprise with which one blunders on a friend's frailties, "this is Miss Cutter. She is a very serious person. She sings in a choir somewhere, sews for the widow and the orphan, I believe, and occupies a very responsible position in the organization of the Western Union Telegraph Company," I added, to dispel all doubts as to my habits. "Miss Cutter also exercises a very good influence over Dicky O'Toole; she might even reform you."

"I didn't get your name," she said,

pleased at my description.

"Atkinson," I said hastily. "He's a sculptor. You might have guessed that, Ottie."

Bob wore a black imperial, a black stock, a black sombrero, and loose black trousers to distinguish him from the butlers and other ordinary mortals.

In a moment, with Ottie between us, her hands snug in masculine arms, we set off gaily in search of Rosetta, dodging slow-

lurching elephants and tinkling dromedaries, shrieked at by hawkers to try our weight, implored to witness the marvels of Monso, the miraculous mind-reader, to view the Lilliputians, to ride through perilous gorges or delve into snaky caverns on disappearing gondolas.

"Rosetta has red hair, of course," said Atkinson, gazing carefully at the towers. "Blond," said Ottie.

"What sort of costume?" I inquired.

"Blue sweater and piqué hat."

"Watch out for a blue sweater and a piqué hat!'

We made a more or less diligent search once around, without perceiving a single blue sweater with a piqué hat except on a large, overlapping woman with a cluster of children. We stopped for consultation.

"Rosetta's mother is with her," said

Ottie slowly.

Atkinson, who is a skeptic, sent me a malicious glance. Ottie certainly had not mentioned this detail at first.

"Do you dance? Why not?" he asked

joyfully.

She considered, and I perceived the code of conduct struggling to catch up.

"Do you think I ought to?" she said regretfully. "It seems awfully improper."

"Shall we leave you?" I said maliciously. "Heavens, no!" She considered a moment, while I waited appreciatively for the divine feminine logic to find the excuse. "After all, since we are together and it can't be helped, it's no worse to amuse our-

selves, is it?"

We danced. We rode the camels. We shot the chutes. We tried every scenic railway that offered itself. We had our fortunes told, where an artful sibyl, with the greasing of the palm in view, saw a dark man in Ottie's fortune, a dark man with a black imperial who came from foreign parts. At last, weary for rest and hungry, we ensconced ourselves in a fragile red-and-white restaurant and ordered tea of a toddling

"Oh, dear," said the frank Ottie, "why is it that the things you hadn't ought to do

is such fun?"

Ottie was as careless as upper Fifth Avenue in the matter of grammar, but her voice was irreproachably gentle.

"Miss Cutter is just discovering the world," I remarked to Atkinson, who had become markedly interested.



"Sure it was Lannigan passing I seen Pearl Stevens peeking around the corner, that's all"

Providence permits an accident like thisto console us for the rules of conduct."

She smiled, whether she understood or not, and her little fingers began to run merrily over the saucers in rhythm to a distant orchestra. Below us, the gaily-colored crowd went avidly with sudden clusters of whites and pinks. Against the paling sky, fairy-white towers began to set out their brilliant necklaces, still feebly white, while, below, a million savage eyes awoke with the passing of the day. The city-weary hordes responded with a new animation; the sounds of music floated to us on softer breezes; everything quickened to a more spontaneous delight, and the reckless boats which, far off, darted in terrifying rapidity down the electric chutes, flung gorgeous clouds of spray into the lake below. We were not insensible, we three, to this multitudinous awakening of the privileged night, and the stir that, in the crowd, drew man and maid a little closer, with brightening glances. Our little daughter of New York was craning over the balustrade, avid of every note of laughter, her clear row of teeth brilliant against the lips that opened hungrily, her eyes half closed, her glance distant.

At this moment, on the steps of a tumultuous gorge opposite, I saw Rosetta. An exclamation was on my tongue when I felt my wrist abruptly seized. I turned. Ottie, her finger on her lips, her eyes blazing, was sending me an imperious call for

silence.

For a moment, I was dumfounded. Then I said sternly, in a whisper, unheard by Atkinson, who was engrossed by a perilous figure swaying from an invisible thread in

"Ottie, you didn't tell me the truth!" "No," she said tensely. "Hush! Not

now-later.'

A certain suspicion came into my mind. but I complied with her request. Rosetta. whether she perceived us or not, crossed our ways no more. We ended gaily as we had begun, caught by the infectious spirits of our companion, who hurried us, laughing, from one sensation to another. At nine o'clock, in accordance with her stubborn insistence, we brought her to the door of an apartment-house on Avenue B in the Eighties. All the vibrant spirits which had made the evening such a treat to us suddenly deserted her. She watched us go, complete lassitude in her waiting attitude,

as though aware that the experience was never to be repeated.

Atkinson, who had the professional skep-

ticism, said:

"Here we are stranded at nine o'clock at night. Why didn't you insist? She'd have stayed."

"You don't know Ottie," I replied defensively.

He laughed.

"My dear boy, you don't know women. What she wanted was for us to force her to stay. Besides, did you really believe her story? Do you think she was lost? Come off! She saw you, and fixed it with her

"I don't think so," I said, but dubiously. "Bet you she comes with us next Sunday," said Atkinson, smiling in a superior way. "Box of cigars—and good ones!"
"You lose," I said, nodding acceptance.
"We'll see."

The next Wednesday afternoon, after lunch, I went curiously to receive the explanation. But as I passed the telephonebooths, a spray of wild flowers caught my eyes. I stopped, amazed, and caught the eyes of Rosetta, who met my glance defiantly.

When I reached the telegraph-counter,

Ottie was standing sternly.

"You saw?" she said abruptly.

"Why, yes."

"And she my best friend, too," she said scornfully.

"Tell me the true story of what happened Sunday," I said impressively.

"I'd told you then, if you hadn't had a friend," she said instantly. "Gee, I feel as though I'd never trust another human being, and never, never, another woman!" she added savagely.

"Who was the man?"

"That feller Perkins," she said quietly. "You went down with Perkins, then?"

I said, surprised.

"It was this way," she said shifting the telegraph-blanks: "Perkins started in on the soft stuff, pestering me to do this and that. Honest, he got to be a regular nuisance! So I made up my mind I'd teach him a thing or two, take the conceit out of him. So when he had the nerve to ask me to Coney Island, I made out as though I was delighted.

"In my car,' says he airily. 'We'll run

down just in time for dinner.'

"'Not in your car, thank you,' says I. 'In the subway; and we go for lunch and back at six, or nothing doing!"

"He fussed and fumed around, but at the

last he said, 'All right.'

"Now I hadn't the least idea in the world of going. No; all I wanted was to leave him standing an hour or so on a nice, hot platform, fidgeting for me. I had a date with a steady—the feller I told you about, physical culture and dancing. But on Saturday he sent around word he was engaged for a private dance the next afternoon and would I excuse him. Course that made me furious, and I said to myself, 'Just to pay him back, now I will go with another feller.'"

"So has it ever been since the world

began," I interjected softly.

"But as I wanted to give this Perkins a jolt or two, also," she continued, "I made up my mind nothing would make him so wild as to come tripping down all set for a twosing party and find a third. So I rang in Rosetta-just to chaperon."

"Very well reasoned. furious?" And he was

"Was he furious? Why, he almost bit away his upper lip. Course we'd kept him walking up and down half an hour at that. All the way down I was laughing to myself, nudging Rosetta, for we sat together, and he was dangling on a strap, without a word to say, looking hot and mussed up.

"I guess he'll get his eyes opened,' I was saying to Rosetta, 'trying to carry off defenseless working girls. Doesn't he look

"'He's rather nifty-looking, though,' says

Rosetta, 'and a swell dresser.

"You know that ought to have put me on, 'specially as Rosetta had gotten herself up something fierce. You'd a thought it was a wedding. But me and Rosetta had gone through the high together; we was

chums, sharing each other's secrets, and who'd think of your bosom friend cutting you in the back?"

"So you never suspected?"

"Suspected? No. Course I noticed they had a good deal to say to each other and all that, but, you see, that was part of my game. I was to give him the cold shoulder, force him to address his remarks to Rosetta.'

I put up my hand to conceal a smile. "They stuck me on a camel," she went on indignantly, "and when they got me there—they shook me! What d'ye think

of that? Shook by your own chaperon!"
"Ottie," I said, "this is a very deceitful world. I'm afraid you are to lose many

illusions.'

She glanced sternly over at the telephone-

"It ain't him," she said scornfully, "and it ain't the weeds; it's her."

"Well, anyhow, she didn't spoil the afternoon," I said cheerily.

"Wasn't it grand?" she said, smiling. "Atkinson wants to know if you'll go again next Sunday," I said cautiously.

She shook her head, albeit a trifle sadly. "It's not that you fellers ain't square, she said. "Sure I'd trust you. It's-well, there's a difference. With fellers like you, I ain't got no prospects, and if I went, it might spoil the rest. D'ye get my thought?"

"Ottie, you've got a clearer head than I have," I exclaimed, genuinely touched.

"Sure it's nothing but hard sense," she said obstinately.

Atkinson brought me the box of cigars with only this reference:

"You know," he said, "I think it's just as well for me I don't see too much of that

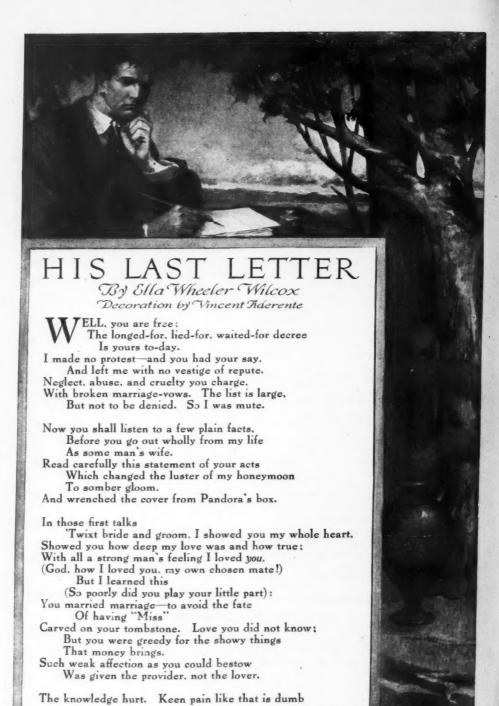
And I repeated Ottie's dictum:

"Why is it the things you hadn't ought to do is such fun?"

John Galsworthy

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DRAWN BY HOWARD CHANDLER CHRISTY

"I am sorry, Mrs. Summerstone," young Dick apologized. "I won't keep you waiting ever

again. And I won't bother you much ever"

(The Little Lady of the Big House)

THE LITTLE LADY OF THE BIG HOUSE

A STORY OF THREE PEOPLE IN A REAL WORLD

By Jack London

Author of "The Valley of the Moon", "Smoke Bellew", "The Sea Wolf,"etc.

Mustrated by Howard Chandler Christy

Synopsis—Dick Forrest is the owner of a two-hundred-and-fifty-thousand-acre farm and ranch in the Sacramento valley, California, which, through his genius for organization and his scientific knowledge of agriculture and stock-raising, has become famous the country over for the quality of its products. The opening chapters describe one of Dick's mornings at the beginning of spring. He makes a horseback tour of his wide domain, interviewing his managers, giving directions, orders, etc. By nine o'clock, he is back at the Big House, a fine Hispano-Moresque structure which serves as home and office-ready for the administrative work of the day. Before getting down to this he stops for a romp with his wife's half-sisters, Ernestine and Lute, Bert Wainwright, and Rita, Bert's sister and a chum of Ernestine's, who are guests at the Big House. About eleven-thirty, just as Dick is expecting a sheep-buyer from Idaho, Mrs. Forrest—Paula, "The Little Lady of the Big House," pays her husband a visit in his office. Their talk is affectionate, but Dick is more concerned at the moment with business than he is with his wife, and of this she is mildly resentful. The arrival of a secretary with telegrams gives her an excuse to leave and she goes back singing—in a voice, it seems to Dick, a trifle subdued—to her wing of the Big House.

IVE feet ten inches in height, weighing a clean-muscled one hundred and eighty pounds, Dick Forrest was anything but insignificant for a forty-year-old man. The eyes were gray, large, overarched by bone of brow, and lashes and brows were dark. The hair, above an ordinary forehead, was light brown to chestnut. Under the forehead, the cheeks showed high-boned, with, underneath, the slight hollows that necessarily accompany such formation. The jaws were strong without massiveness; the nose, large-nostriled, was straight enough and prominent enough without being too straight or prominent; the chin, square without harshness and uncleft, and the mouth girlish and sweet to a degree that did not hide the firmness to which the lips could set on due provocation. The skin was smooth and well tanned, although, midway between eyebrows and hair, the tan of forehead faded in advertisement of the rim of the Baden-Powell interposed between him and the sun.

Laughter lurked in the mouth-corners and eye-corners, and there were cheek-lines about the mouth that would seem to have been formed by laughter. Equally strong,

however, every line of the face that meant blended things carried a notice of surety. Dick Forrest was sure—sure, when his hand reached out for any object on his desk, that the hand would straightly attain the object without a fumble or a miss of a fraction of an inch; sure, when his brain leaped the high places of the hog-cholera text, that it was not missing a point; sure, from his balanced body in the revolving desk-chair to the balanced back head of him; sure, in heart and brain, of life and work, of all he possessed, and of himself.

He had reason to be sure. Body, brain, and career were long proven sure. A rich man's son, he had not played fast and loose with his father's money. City-born and -reared, he had gone back to the land and made such a success as to put his name on the lips of breeders, wherever breeders met and talked. He was the owner, without encumbrance, of two hundred and fifty thousand acres of land-land that varied in value from a thousand dollars an acre to a hundred dollars, that varied from a hundred dollars to ten cents an acre, and that, in stretches, was not worth a penny an acre. The improvements on that quarter of a million acres, from drain-tiled meadows to

dredger-drained tule swamps, from good roads to developed water-rights, from farmbuildings to the Big House itself, constituted a sum gaspingly ungraspable to the

countryside.

Everything was large-scale, but modern to the last tick of the clock. His managers lived, rent free, with salaries commensurate to ability, in five- and ten-thousand-dollar houses; but they were the cream of specialists skimmed from the continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. When he ordered gasoline-tractors for the cultivation of the flatlands, he ordered a round score. When he dammed water in his mountains, he dammed it by the hundreds of millions of gallons. When he ditched his tule swamps, instead of contracting the excavation, he bought the huge dredgers outright, and, when there was slack work on his own marshes, he contracted for the draining of the marshes of neighboring big farms, land companies, and corporations for a hundred miles up and down the Sacramento River. He had brain sufficient to know the need of buying brains, and to pay a tidy bit over the current market price for the most capable brains. And he had brain sufficient to direct the brains he bought to a profitable conclusion.

And yet he was just turned forty, was clear-eyed, calm-hearted, hearty-pulsed, man-strong; and yet his history, until he was thirty, had been harum-scarum and erratic to the superlative. He had run away from a millionaire home when he was thirteen. He had won enviable college honors ere he was twenty-one, and after that he had known all the purple ports of the purple seas, and, with cool head, hot heart, and laughter, played every risk that promised and provided in the wild world of adventure that he had lived to see pass under the

sobriety of law.

In the old days of San Francisco, Forrest had been a name to conjure with. The Forrest mansion had been one of the pioneer palaces on Nob Hill, where dwelt the Floods, the Mackays, the Crockers, and the O'Briens. "Lucky" Richard Forrest, the father, had arrived, via the Isthmus, straight from old New England, keenly commercial, interested before his departure in clipper ships and the building of clipper ships, and interested immediately after his arrival in waterfront real estate, river steamboats, mines, of course, and, later, in the

draining of the Nevada Comstock and the construction of the Southern Pacific.

He played big; he won big; he lost big, but he won always more than he lost, and what he paid out at one game with one hand, he drew back with his other hand from another game. His winnings from the Comstock he sank into the various holes of the bottomless Daffodil group in El Dorado County. The wreckage from the Benicia Line he turned into the Napa Consolidated, which was a quicksilver venture, and it earned him five thousand per cent. What he lost in the collapse of the Stockton boom was more than balanced by the realty appreciation of his key-holdings at Sacramento and Oakland.

And, to cap it all, when "Lucky" Richard Forrest had lost everything in a series of calamities, so that San Francisco debated what price his Nob Hill palace would fetch at auction, he grub-staked one Del Nelson to a prospecting trip in Mexico. As soberly set down in history, the result of the said Del Nelson's search for quartz was the Harvest group, including the fabulous and inexhaustible Rattlesnake, Voice, City, Des-demona, Bullfrog, and Yellow Boy claims. Del Nelson, astounded by his achievement, within the year drowned himself in an enormous quantity of cheap whisky, and, the will being incontestable through lack of kith and kin, left his half to "Lucky" Richard Forrest.

Dick Forrest was the son of his father. "Lucky" Richard, a man of boundless energy and enterprise, though twice married and twice widowed, had not been blessed with children. His third marriage occurred in 1872, when he was fifty-eight, and in 1874, although he lost the mother, a twelve-pound boy, stout-barreled and husky-lunged, remained to be brought up by a regiment of nurses in the palace on Nob Hill.

Young Dick was precocious. "Lucky" Richard was a democrat. Result: Young Dick learned in a year from a private teacher what would have required three years in the grammar-school, and used all of the saved years in playing in the open air. Also, result of precocity of son and democracy of father, young Dick was sent to grammar-school for the last year in order to learn shoulder-rubbing democracy with the sons and daughters of workmen, tradesmen, saloon-keepers, and politicians.

In class-recitation or spelling-match, his father's millions did not aid him in competing with Patsy Halloran, the mathematical prodigy, whose father was a hod-carrier, or with Mona Sanguinetti, who was a wizard at spelling and whose widowed mother ran a vegetable store. Nor were his father's millions and the Nob Hill palace of the slightest assistance to young Dick when he peeled his jacket and, bareknuckled, without rounds, licking or being licked, milled it to a finish with Jimmy Botts, Jean Choyinsky, and the rest of the lads who went out over the world to glory and cash a few years later, a generation of prize-fighters that only San Francisco, raw and virile and yeasty and young, could have

The wisest thing "Lucky" Richard did for his boy was to give him this democratic tutelage. In his secret heart, young Dick never forgot that he lived in a palace. On the other hand, young Dick learned twolegged, two-fisted democracy. He learned it when Mona Sanguinetti spelled him down in class. He learned it when Berney Miller outdodged and outran him when running

across in black-man.

And when Tim Hagan, with straight left for the hundredth time to bleeding nose and mangled mouth, and with ever reiterant right hook to stomach, had him dazed and reeling, the breath whistling and sobbing through his lacerated lips-that was no time for succor from palaces and bank-accounts. On his two legs, with his two fists, it was either he or Tim. And it was right there, in sweat and blood and iron of soul, that young Dick learned how not to lose a losing fight. It had been up-hill from the first blow, but he stuck it out until, in the end, it was agreed that neither could best the other. After that they became chums, and between them ruled the school-yard.

"Lucky" Richard died the same month young Dick emerged from grammar-school. Young Dick was thirteen years old, with twenty million dollars, and without a relative in the world to trouble him. He was the master of a palace of servants, a steam yacht, stables, and, as well, of a summer palace down the Peninsula in the nabob colony at Monto. One thing, only, was he

burdened with—guardians.

On a summer afternoon, in the big library, he attended the first session of his board of guardians. There were three of them-all

elderly and successful, all legal, all business comrades of his father. Dick's impression, as they explained things to him, was that, although they meant well, he had no contacts with them. In his judgment, their boyhood was too far behind them. Besides that, it was patent that him, the particular boy they were so much concerned with, they did not understand at all. Furthermore, in his own sure way he decided that he was the one person in the world fitted to know what was best for himself.

Mr. Crockett made a long speech, to which Dick listened with alert and becoming attention, nodding his head whenever he was directly addressed or appealed to. Messrs. Davidson and Slocum also had their say and were treated with equal con-Among other things, Dick sideration. learned what a sterling, upright man his father had been, and the program, decided upon by the three gentlemen, which would make him into a sterling and upright man.

When they were quite done, Dick took it upon himself to say a few things.

"I have thought it over," he announced, "and, first of all, I shall go traveling."

"That will come afterward, my boy," Mr. Slocum explained soothingly. "When -say-when you are ready to enter the university. At that time, a year abroad

would be a very good thing."
"Of course," Mr. Davidson volunteered quickly, having noted the annoyed light in the lad's eyes and the unconscious, firm drawing and setting of the lips, "of course, in the mean time you could do some traveling, a limited amount of traveling, during your school vacations. I am sure my fellow guardians will agree-under the proper management and safeguarding, of course—that such bits of travel would be advisable and beneficial."

"How much did you say I am worth?" Dick asked, with apparent irrelevance. "Twenty millions-at a most conserva-

tive estimate—that is about the sum," Mr. Crockett answered promptly.

"Suppose I said right now that I wanted a hundred dollars?" Dick went on.

"Why-er-ahem-" Mr. Slocum looked about him for guidance.

"We would be compelled to ask what you wanted it for," answered Mr. Crockett.

"And suppose," Dick said very slowly, looking Mr. Crockett squarely in the eyes, "suppose I said I was very sorry but did not care to say what I wanted it for?"

"Then you wouldn't get it," Mr. Crockett said, so immediately that there was a hint of testiness and snap in his manner.

Dick nodded slowly, as if letting the in-

formation sink in.

"But, of course, my boy," Mr. Slocum took up hastily, "you understand you are too young to handle money yet."

"You mean I can't touch a penny with-

out your permission?'

"Not a penny," Mr. Crockett snapped. Dick nodded his head and murmured,

"Oh, I see!"

"Of course, and quite naturally—it would only be fair, you know—you will have a small allowance for your personal spending," Mr. Davidson said. "Say, a dollar or, perhaps, two dollars a week. As you grow older, this allowance will be increased. And by the time you are twenty-one, doubtless you will be fully qualified—with advice—to handle your own affairs."

"And until I am twenty-one, my twenty million wouldn't buy me a hundred dollars to do as I please with?" Dick queried.

Mr. Davidson started to corroborate in soothing phrases, but was waved to silence by Dick, who continued,

"As I understand it, whatever money I handle will be by agreement between the four of us?"

The board of guardians nodded.
"That is, whatever we agree, goes?"
Again the board of guardians nodded.
"Well, I'd like to have a hundred right

now," Dick announced.

"What for?" Mr. Crockett demanded.
"I don't mind telling you," was the lad's steady answer. "To go traveling."

"You'll go to bed at eight-thirty this evening," Mr. Crockett retorted. "And you don't get any hundred. The lady we spoke to you about will be here before six. She is to have, as we explained, daily and hourly charge of you. At six-thirty, as usual, you will dine, and she will dine with you and see you to bed. As we told you, she will have to serve the place of a mother to you—see that your ears are clean, your neck washed——"

"And that I get my Saturday-night bath," Dick amplified meekly for him.

"Precisely."

"How much are you—am I—paying the lady for her services?" Dick questioned, in the disconcerting, tangential way that was already habitual to him.

Mr. Crockett, for the first time, cleared his throat for pause.

"I'm paying her, ain't I?" Dick prodded. "Mrs. Summerstone, the lady, as you elect to call her, receives one hundred and fifty a month, eighteen hundred a year in round sum," said Mr. Crockett.

"It's a waste of perfectly good money," Dick sighed. "And board and lodging

thrown in."

He stood up—not the born aristocrat of the generations, but the reared aristocrat of thirteen years in the Nob Hill palace. He stood up with such a manner that his board of guardians left their leather chairs to stand up with him. But he stood up as no Lord Fauntleroy ever stood up, for he was a mixer. He had knowledge that human life was many-faced and many-placed.

He was birthed of the wild gold-adventure of 'Forty-nine. He was a reared aristocrat and a grammar-school-trained democrat. He knew, in his precocious, immature way, the differentiations between caste and mass, and, behind it all, he was possessed of a will of his own and of a quiet surety of self that was incomprehensible to the three elderly gentlemen who had been given charge of him and his destiny and who had pledged themselves to increase his twenty millions and make a man of him in their own composite image.

"Thank you for your kindness," young Dick said, generally, to the three; "I guess we'll get along all right. Of course that twenty millions is mine, and of course you've got to take care of it for me, seeing I know nothing of business—"

"And we'll increase it for you, my boy; we'll increase it for you in safe, conservative ways," Mr. Slocum assured him.

"No speculation," young Dick warned.
"Dad's just been lucky. I've heard him say
that times have changed and a fellow can't
take the chances everybody used to take."

From which, and from much which has already passed, it might erroneously be inferred that young Dick was a mean and money-grubbing soul. On the contrary, he was, at that instant, entertaining secret thoughts and plans, so utterly regardless and disdainful of his twenty millions, as to place him on a par with a drunken sailor sowing the beach with a three years' payday.

"I am only a boy," young Dick went on; but you don't know me very well yet.



DRAWN BY HOWARD CHANDLER CHRISTY

He stood up with such a manner that his board of guardians left their leather chairs to stand up with him

We'll get better acquainted by and by, and,

again thanking you-"

He paused, bowed briefly and grandly, as lords in Nob Hill palaces early learn to bow, and, by the quality of the pause, signified that the audience was over. Nor did the impact of dismissal miss his guardians. They, who had been colords with his father, withdrew confused and perplexed. Messrs. Davidson and Slocum were on the point of resolving their perplexity into wrath as they went down the great stone stairway to the waiting carriage, but Mr. Crockett, the testy and snappish, muttered ecstatically: "The son of a gun! The little son of a gun!"

The carriage carried them down to the old Pacific-Union Club, where, for another hour, they gravely discussed the future of young Dick Forrest. And down the hill, on foot, where grass grew on the paved streets too steep for horse-traffic, young Dick hurried. As the height of land was left behind, almost immediately the palaces and spacious grounds of the nabobs gave way to the mean streets and wooden warrens of the working people. The San Francisco of 1887 as incontinently intermingled its slums and mansions as did the old cities of Europe. Nob Hill arose, like any medieval castle, from the mess and ruck of common life that denned and laired at its base.

Young Dick came to pause alongside a corner grocery, the second story of which was rented to Timothy Hagan, Senior, who by virtue of being a policeman with a wage of a hundred dollars a month, rented this high place to dwell above his fellows who supported families on no more than forty

and fifty dollars a month.

In vain young Dick whistled up through the unscreened open windows. Tim Hagan, Junior was not at home. But young Dick wasted little wind in the whistling. He was debating on possible adjacent places where Tim Hagan might be, when Tim himself appeared around the corner, bearing a lidless lard-can that foamed with beer. He grunted greeting, and young Dick grunted with equal roughness, just as if, a brief space before, he had not, in most lordly fashion, terminated an audience with three of the richest merchant kings of an imperial city.

"Ain't seen yeh since yer old man died,"

Tim Hagan commented.

"Well, you're seein' me now, ain't you?"

was young Dick's retort. "Say, Tim, I come to see you on business."

"Wait till I rush the beer to the old man," said Tim. "He'll roar his head off if it

comes in flat."

"Oh, you can shake it up," young Dick assured him. "Only want to see you a minute. I'm hitting the road to-night. Want to come along?"

Tim's small blue Irish eyes flashed with

interest

"Where to?" he queried.

"Don't know. Want to come? You know the ropes. What d'ye say?"
"The old man 'll beat the stuffin' outa

me," Tim demurred.

"He's done that before, an' you don't seem to be much missing," young Dick callously rejoined. "Say the word, an' we'll meet at the Ferry Building at nine to-night. What d'ye say? I'll be there."

"Supposin' I don't show up?" Tim

asked.

"I'll be on my way just the same." Young Dick turned as if to depart, paused casually and said over his shoulder, "Better come along."

Tim shook up the beer as he answered

with equal casualness,

"Aw right; I'll be there."
After parting from Tim Hagan, young Dick spent a busy hour or so looking up one Marcovich, a Slavonian schoolmate, whose father ran a chop-house. Young Marcovich owed young Dick two dollars, and young Dick accepted the payment of a dollar and forty cents as full quittance of the debt.

Also, with shyness and perturbation, young Dick wandered down Montgomery Street and vacillated among the many pawnshops that graced that thoroughfare. At last, diving desperately into one, he managed to exchange for eight dollars and a ticket, his gold watch, that he knew was

worth fifty at the very least.

Dinner in the Nob Hill palace was served at six-thirty. He arrived at six-forty-five, and encountered Mrs. Summerstone. She was a stout, elderly, decayed gentlewoman, a daughter of the great Porter-Rickington family that had shaken the entire Pacific Coast with its financial crash in the middle 'Seventies.

"This will never, never do, Richard," she censured. "Here is dinner waiting fifteen minutes already, and you have not yet

washed your face and hands."

"I am sorry, Mrs. Summerstone," young Dick apologized. "I won't keep you waiting ever again. And I won't bother you much ever."

At dinner, in state, the two of them alone in the great dining-room, young Dick strove to make things easy for the lady, whom despite his knowledge that she was on his pay-roll, he felt toward as a host must feel toward a guest.

"You'll be very comfortable here," he promised, "once you are settled down. It's a good old house, and most of the servants have been here for years."

"But, Richard," she smiled seriously to him, "it is not the servants who will determine my happiness here; it is you."

"I'll do my best," he said graciously. "Better than that, I'm sorry I came in late for dinner. In years and years you'll never see me late again. I won't bother you at all. You'll see. It will be just as though I wasn't in the house."

When he bade her good-night, on his way to bed, he added, as a last thought:

"I'll warn you of one thing: Ah Sing. He's the cook. He's been in our house for years and years—oh, I don't know, maybe twenty-five or thirty years he's cooked for father, from long before this house was built or I was born. He's privileged. He's so used to having his own way that you'll have to handle him with gloves. But once he likes you, he'll work his fool head off to please you. He likes me that way. You get him to like you, and you'll have the time of your life here."

VI

At nine in the evening, sharp to the second, clad in his oldest clothes, young Dick met Tim Hagan at the Ferry Building.

"No use headin' north," said Tim.
"Winter'll come on up that way and make the sleepin' crimpy."

"Any other way?" queried young Dick. "What's the matter with south?"

"How much money you got?" Tim demanded."

"What for?" young Dick countered.
"We gotta get out quick, an' payin' our way at the start is quickest. Me—I'm all hunky-dory; but you ain't. The folks that's lookin' after you'll raise a roar. They'll have more detectives out than you can shake a stick at. We gotta dodge 'em."

"Then we will dodge," said young Dick.
"We'll make short jumps, this way and that, for a couple of days, layin' low most of the time, payin' our way until we can get to Tracy. Then we'll quit payin' an' beat her south."

All of which program was carefully carried out. They eventually went through Tracy as pay passengers, six hours after the local deputy sheriff had given up his task of searching the trains. With an excess of precaution, young Dick paid beyond Tracy and as far as Modesto. After that, under the teaching of Tim, he traveled without paying, riding blind baggages, box cars, and cowcatchers. Young Dick bought the newspapers, and frightened Tim by reading to the young heir to the Forrest millions.

Back in San Francisco, the board of guardians offered rewards that totaled thirty thousand dollars for the recovery of their ward. And Tim Hagan, reading the same, while they lay in the grass by some water-tank, branded forever the mind of young Dick with the fact that honor beyond price was a matter of neither place nor caste, and might outcrop in the palace on the height of land or in the dwelling over a grocery down on the flat.

"Gee," Tim said to the general landscape, "the old man wouldn't raise a roar if I snitched on you for that thirty thousand! It makes me scared to think of it."

And from the fact that Tim thus openly mentioned the matter, young Dick concluded that there was no possibility of the policeman's son betraying him.

Not until six weeks afterward, in Arizona, did young Dick bring up the subject.

"You see, Tim," he said, "I've got slathers of money. It's growing all the time, and I ain't spending a cent of it, not so as you can notice—though that Mrs. Summerstone is getting a cold eighteen hundred a year out of me, with board and carriages thrown in, while you and I are glad to get the leavings of firemen's pails in the roundhouses. Just the same, my money's growing. What's ten per cent. of twenty million dollars?"

Tim Hagan stared at the shimmering heat-waves of the desert and tried to solve the problem.

"What's one-tenth of twenty million?" young Dick demanded irritably.

"Huh-two million, of course!"

"Well, five per cent.'s half of ten per cent. What does twenty million earn at five per cent. for one year?"

Tim hesitated.

"Half of it, half of two million!" young Dick cried. "At that rate, I'm a million richer every year. Get that, and hang on to it and listen to me. When I'm good and willing to go back—but not for years and years—we'll fix it up, you and I. When I say the word, you'll write to your father. He'll jump out to where we are waiting, pick me up, and cart me back. Then he'll collect the thirty thousand reward from my guardians, quit the police force, and most likely start a saloon."

"Thirty thousand 's a lot of money," was Tim's nonchalant way of expressing

his gratitude.

"Not to me." Young Dick minimized his generosity. "Thirty thousand goes into a million thirty-three times, and a million's only a year's turnover of my money."

But Tim Hagan never lived to see his father a saloon-keeper. Two days later, on a trestle, the lads were fired out of an empty box car by a brakeman who should have known better. The trestle spanned a dry ravine. Young Dick looked down at the rocks, seventy feet below, and demurred.

"There's room on the trestle," he said; "but what if the train starts up?"

"It ain't goin' to start—beat it while you got time," the brakeman insisted. "The engine's takin' water at the other side. She

always takes it here."

But, for once, the engine did not take water. The evidence at the inquest developed that the engineer had found no water in the tank and started on. Scarcely had the two boys dropped from the side door of the box car, and before they had made a score of steps along the narrow way between the train and the abyss, than the train began to move. Young Dick, quick and sure in all his perceptions and adjustments, dropped on the instant to hands and knees on the trestle. Tim, not so quick in perceiving and adjusting, also overcome with Celtic rage at the brakeman, remained upright to flare his opinion of the brakeman, to the brakeman, in lurid and ancestral terms.

"Get down-drop!" Dick shouted.

But the opportunity had passed. On a down grade, the engine picked up the train rapidly. Facing the moving cars, with empty air at his back and the depth beneath, Tim tried to drop on hands and knees. But the first twist of his shoulders brought him in contact with the car and nearly outbalanced him. By a miracle, he recovered equilibrium. But he stood upright. The train was moving faster and faster. It was impossible to get down.

Young Dick, kneeling and holding, watched. The train gathered way. The cars moved more swiftly. Tim, with a cool head, his back to the fall, his face to the passing cars, his arms by his sides, with nowhere, save under his feet, a holding-point, balanced and swayed. The faster the train moved, the wider he swayed, until, exerting his will, he controlled himself and ceased

from swaving.

And all would have been well with him, had it not been for one car. Young Dick knew it, and saw it coming. It was a "palace horse car," projecting six inches wider than any car on the train. He saw Tim see it coming. He saw Tim steel himself to meet the abrupt subtraction of half a foot from the narrow space wherein he balanced. He saw Tim slowly and deliberately sway out, sway out to the extremest limit, and yet not sway out far enough. The thing was physically inevitable. An inch more, and Tim would have escaped the car. It caught him, in that margin of an inch, and hurled him backward and side-twisting. Twice he whirled sidewise, and two and a half times he turned over ere he struck on his head and neck on the rocks.

He never moved after he struck. The seventy-foot fall broke his neck and crushed his skull. And right there young Dick learned death—not the ordered, decent death of civilization, wherein doctors and nurses and hypodermics ease the stricken one into the darkness, and ceremony and function and flowers and undertaking institutions conspire to give a happy leave-taking and send-off to the departing shade, but sudden death, primitive death, ugly and

ungarnished.

And right there young Dick learned more—the mischance of life and fate; the universe hostile to man; the need to perceive and to act, to see and know, to be sure and quick, to adjust instantly to all instant shiftage of the balance of forces that bear upon the living. And right there, beside the strangely crumpled and shrunken remnant of what had been his comrade the moment before,

young Dick learned that illusion must be discounted, and that reality never lies.

In New Mexico, young Dick drifted into the Jingle-bob Ranch, north of Roswell, in the Pecos valley. He was not yet fourteen, and he was accepted as the mascot of the ranch and made into a "sure-enough" cowboy by cowboys who, on legal papers, legally signed names such as Wild Horse, Willie Buck, Boomer Deacon, and High Pockets.

Here, during a stay of six months, young Dick, soft of frame and unbreakable, achieved a knowledge of horses and horsemanship, and of men in the rough and raw, that became a life asset. More he learned. There was John Chisum, owner of the Jingle-bob, the Bosque Grande, and of other cattle-ranches, as far away as the Black River and beyond. John Chisum was a cattle king who had foreseen the coming of the farmer and adjusted from the open range to barbed wire, and who, in order to do so, had purchased every forty acres carrying water, and got for nothing the use of the millions of acres of adjacent range that was worthless without the water he controlled. And in the talk by the campfire and chuck-wagon, among forty-dollara-month cowboys who had not foreseen what John Chisum foresaw, young Dick learned precisely why and how John Chisum had become a cattle king, while a thousand of his contemporaries worked for him on

But young Dick was no cool-head. His blood was hot. He had passion and fire and male pride. Ready to cry from twenty hours in the saddle, he learned to ignore the thousand aching creaks in his body, and, with the Stoic brag of silence, to withstrain from his blankets until the hard-bitten punchers led the way. By the same token, he straddled the horse that was apportioned him, insisted on riding night-herd, and knew no hint of uncertainty when it came to him to turn the flank of a stampede with a flying slicker.

slicker.

It was while at the Jingle-bob, but posted by a cattleman from Chicago, that young Dick wrote a letter to his guardians. Even then, so careful was he that the envelop was addressed to Ah Sing. Though unburdened by his twenty millions, young Dick never forgot them, and, fearing his estate might be distributed among remote relatives who might possibly inhabit New England, he warned his guardians that he was still alive and that he would return home in several years. Also, he ordered them to keep Mrs. Summerstone on at her regular salary.

But young Dick's feet itched. Half a year, he felt, was really more than he should have spent at the lingle-bob. As a boy hobo, or road-kid, he drifted on across the United States, getting acquainted with its peace officers, police judges, vagrancy laws, and jails. And he learned vagrants themselves at first hand, and floating laborers and petty criminals. Among other things, he got acquainted with farms and farmers, and, in New York state, once picked berries for a week with a Dutch farmer who was experimenting with one of the first silos erected in the United States. Nothing of what he learned came to him in the spirit of research. He had merely the human boy's curiosity about all things, and he gained merely a huge mass of data concerning human nature and social conditions that was to stand him in good stead in later years, when, with the aid of books, he digested and classified it.

His adventures did not harm him. Even when he consorted with jailbirds in jungle-camps, and listened to their codes of conduct and measurement of life, he was not affected. He was a traveler, and they were alien breeds. All things and all places interested him; but he never found a place or a situation that could hold him. He wanted to see, to see more and more, and

to go on seeing.

At the end of three years, nearly seventeen, hard of body, weighing a hundred and thirty pounds, he judged it time to go home and open the books. So he took his first long voyage, signing on as boy on a windjammer bound around the Horn from the Delaware Breakwater to San Francisco. It was a hard voyage of one hundred and eighty days, but, at the end, he weighed ten pounds the more for having made it.

Mrs. Summerstone screamed when he walked in on her, and Ah Sing had to be called from the kitchen to identify him. He was shy, almost embarrassed, as he greeted his guardians at the hastily summoned meeting. But this did not prevent him from talking straight to the point.

"It's this way," he said. "I am not a fool. I know what I want, and I want what I want. I am alone in the world, out-

side of good friends like you, of course, and I have my own ideas of the world and what I want to do in it. I didn't come home because of a sense of duty to anybody here. I came home because it was time, because of my sense of duty to myself. I'm all the better from my three years of wandering about, and now it's up to me to go on with my education-my book-education, I mean."

'The Belmont Academy," Mr. Slocum suggested. "That will fit you for the uni-

versity-

Dick shook his head decidedly.

"And take three years to do it. So would a high school. I intend to be in the University of California inside one year. That means work. But my mind's like acid. It'll bite into the books. I shall hire a coach, or half a dozen of them, and go to it. And I'll hire my coaches myself-hire and fire them. And that means money to handle."

"A hundred a month?" Mr. Crockett

suggested.

Dick shook his head.

"I've taken care of myself for three years without any of my money. I guess I can take care of myself along with some of my money here in San Francisco. I don't care to handle my business affairs yet, but I do want a bank-account, a respectable-sized one. I want to spend it as I see fit."

The guardians looked their dismay at

one another.

"It's ridiculous, impossible," Mr. Crockett began. "You are as unreasonable as you

were before you went away."

"It's my way, I guess," Dick sighed. "The other disagreement was over my money. It was a hundred dollars I wanted

"Think of our position, Dick," Mr. Davidson urged. "As your guardians, how would it be looked upon if we gave you, a lad of sixteen, a free hand with money?"

"What's the Freda worth, right now?" Dick demanded irrelevantly.

"Can sell for twenty thousand any time,"

Mr. Crockett answered.

"Then sell her. She's too large for me, and she's worth less every year. I want a thirty-footer that I can handle myself for knocking around the bay and that won't cost a thousand. Sell the Freda and put the money to my account. Now, what you three are afraid of is that I'll misspend my money—taking to drinking, horse-racing, and running around with chorus girls.

Here's my proposition to make you easy on that: Let it be a drawing-account for the four of us. The moment any of you decide I am misspending, that moment you may draw out the total balance. I may as well tell you that, just as a side line, I'm going to get a business-college expert to come here and cram me with the mechanical side of the business game." Dick did not wait for their acquiescence, but went on as a matter definitely settled. "Mrs. Summerstone will stay on here in charge of the house, because I've got too much work mapped out for myself already. I promise you you won't regret giving me a free hand with my directly personal affairs. And now, if you want to hear about the last three years, I'll spin the yarn for you."

Dick Forrest had been right when he told his guardians that his mind was acid and would bite into the books. Never was there such an education, and he directed it himself-but not without advice. He had learned the trick of hiring brains from his father and from John Chisum of the Jinglebob. He had learned to sit silent and to think while cowmen talked long about the camp-fire and the chuck-wagon. And, by virtue of name and place, he sought and obtained interviews with professors and college presidents and practical men of affairs; and he listened to their talk through many hours, scarcely speaking, rarely asking a question, merely listening to the best they had to offer, content to receive from several such hours one idea, one fact that would help him to decide what sort of an education he would go in for and how.

Then came the engaging of coaches. Never was there such an engaging and discharging, such a hiring and firing. He was not frugal in the matter. For one that he retained a month, or three months, he discharged a dozen on the first day, or in the first week. And invariably he paid such discharges a full month, although their attempts to teach him might not have consumed an hour. He did such things fairly and grandly, because he could afford to be

fair and grand.

He, who had eaten the leavings from firemen's pails in roundhouses, and "scoffed" mulligan stews at water-tanks, had learned thoroughly the worth of money. He bought the best, with the sure knowledge that it was the cheapest. A year of high-school



DRAWN BY HOWARD CHANDLER CHRISTY

physics and a year of high-school chemistry were necessary to enter the university. When he had crammed his algebra and geometry, he sought out the heads of the Physics and Chemistry departments in the University of California. Professor Carey laughed at him—at first.

"My dear boy—" Professor Carey began. Dick waited patiently till he was through.

Then Dick began, and concluded:

"I'm not a fool, Professor Carey. I know the world. I know what I want and why I want it. High-school students do physics for an hour, twice a week, for two terms, which, with two vacations, occupy one year. You are the top teacher on the Pacific Coast in physics. The college year is just ending. In the first week of your vacation, giving every minute of your time to me, I can get the year's physics. What is that week worth to you?"

"You couldn't buy it for a thousand dollars," Professor Carey rejoined, thinking

he had settled the matter.

"I know what your salary is—" Dick began.

"What is it?" Professor Carey de-

manded sharply.

"It's not a thousand a week," Dick retorted, as sharply. "It's not five hundred a week, or two-fifty a week." He held up his hand to stall off interruption. "You've just told me I couldn't buy a week of your time for a thousand dollars. I'm not going to. But I am going to buy that week for two thousand."

And Professor Carey surrendered. So did Professor Barsdale, head of the Depart-

ment of Chemistry.

Already had Dick taken his coaches in mathematics duck hunting for weeks in the sloughs of the Sacramento and the San Joaquin. After his bout with physics and chemistry, he took his two coaches in literature and history into the Curry County hunting-region of southwestern Oregon. He had learned the trick from his father, and he worked and played, lived in the open air, and did three conventional years of adolescent education in one year without straining himself.

"The weirdest form of dissipation I ever heard," said Mr. Crockett, holding up Dick's account for the year. "Sixteen thousand for education, all itemized, including railroad-fares, porters' tips, and shotgun cartridges for his teachers." "He passed the examinations just the same," quoth Mr. Slocum.

"Well, all I've got to say," proclaimed Mr. Crockett, "is that, from now on, what that boy says in the matter of spending his

money goes."

"And now I'll have a snap," Dick told his guardians. "Here I am, neck and neck again, and years ahead of them in knowledge of the world. Why, I know things, good and bad, big and little, about men and women and life, that sometimes I almost doubt myself that they're true.

"From now on, I'm not going to rush. I've caught up, and I'm going through regular. All I have to do is to keep the speed of the classes, and I'll be graduated when I'm twenty-one. From now on I'll need less money for education—no more coaches, you know—and more money for

a good time."

Mr. Davidson was suspicious.

"What do you mean by a good time?"
"Oh, I'm going in for the frats, for football, hold my own, you know—and I'm interested in gasoline engines. I'm going to build the first ocean-going gasoline yacht in the world."

"You'll blow yourself up," Mr. Crockett demurred. "It's a fool notion all these cranks are rushing into over gasoline."

"I'll make myself safe," Dick answered, "and that means experimenting, and it means money; so keep me a good drawingaccount—same old way."

VII

DICK FORREST proved himself no prodigy at the university, save that he cut more lectures the first year than any other student. The reason for this was that he did not need the lectures he cut, and he knew it. His coaches, while preparing him for the entrance examinations, had carried him nearly through the first college year. Incidentally, he made the freshman team, a very scrub team, that was beaten by every high school and academy it played against.

But Dick did put in work that nobody saw. His collateral reading was wide and deep, and when he went on his first summer cruise in the ocean-going gasoline yacht he had built, no gay young crowd accompanied him. Instead, his guests, with their families, were professors of literature, history, jurisprudence, and philosophy. It

was long remembered in the university as the "highbrow" cruise. The professors, on their return, reported a most enjoyable time. Dick returned with a greater comprehension of the general fields of the particular professors than he could have gained in years at their class-lectures. And time thus gained enabled him to continue to cut lectures and to devote more time to laboratory work. Nor did he miss having his good college time. College widows made love to him, and college girls loved him, and he was indefatigable in his dancing. He never cut a smoker, a beer-bust, or a rush, and he toured the Pacific Coast with the banjo and mandolin club.

And yet he was no prodigy. He was brilliant at nothing. Half a dozen of his fellows could outbanjo and outmandolin him. A dozen fellows were adjudged better dancers than he. In football, and he gained the 'Varsity in his sophomore year, he was considered a solid and dependable player, and that was all. It seemed never his luck to take the ball and go down the length of the field while the Blue-and-Gold host tore itself and the grand stand to pieces. But it was at the end of heart-breaking, grueling slog in mud and rain, the score tied, the second half imminent to its close, Stanford on the five-yard line, Berkeley's ball, with two downs and three yards to gain-it was then that the Blue-and-Gold arose and chanted its demand for Forrest to hit the center and hit it hard.

He never achieved superexcellence at anything. Big Charley Everson drank him down at the beer-busts. Harrison Jackson, at hammer throwing, always exceeded his best by twenty feet. Carruthers outpointed him at boxing. Anson Burge could always put his shoulders to the mat, two out of three, but always only by the hardest work. In English composition, a fifth of his class excelled him. Edlin, the Russian Jew, outdebated him on the contention that property was robbery. Schultz and Debret left him and the class behind in higher mathematics, and Otsuki, the Japanese, was beyond all comparison with him in chemistry.

But if Dick Forrest did not excel at anything, he failed in nothing. He displayed no superlative strength; he betrayed no weakness nor deficiency. As he told his guardians, who, by his unrelenting good conduct had been led into dreaming some

great career for him—as he told them, when they asked what he wanted to become:

"Nothing. Just all-around. You see, I don't have to be a specialist. My father arranged that for me when he left me his money. Besides, I couldn't be a specialist if I wanted to. It isn't in me."

And thus, so well keyed was he, that he expressed clearly his key. He had no flair for anything. He was that rare individual, normal, average, balanced, all-around.

When Mr. Davidson, in the presence of his fellow guardians, stated his pleasure in that Dick had shown no wildness since he had settled down, Dick replied,

"Oh, I can hold myself when I want to."
"Yes," said Mr. Slocum gravely; "it's
the finest thing in the world that you sowed
your wild oats early and learned control."
Dick looked at him curiously.

"Why, that boyish adventure doesn't count," he said. "That wasn't wildness. I haven't gone wild yet. But watch me when I start. But don't forget for one moment that I am anything but unslaked, consuming. I am. I burn. But I hold myself. Don't think I am a dead one because I am a darn nice, meritorious boy at college. I am young. I am alive. I am all lusty and husky. But I make no mistake. I hold myself. I don't start out now to blow up on the first lap. I am just getting ready. I am going to have my time. But in the end I am not going to lament.

"Listen, guardians: Do you know what it is to hit your man, to hit him in hot blood—square to the jaw—and drop him cold? I want that. And I want to love and kiss and risk, and play the lusty, husky fool. I want to take my chance. I want my careening riot, and I want it while I am young, but not while I am too young. And I'm going to have it. And, in the mean time, I play the game at college; I hold myself; I equip myself so that, when I turn loose, I am going to have the best chance of my best. Oh, believe me, I do not always sleep well of nights."

"You mean?" queried Mr. Crockett.
"Sure—that's just what I mean. I
haven't gone wild yet, but just watch me
when I start."

"And you will start when you graduate?" The youngster shook his head.

"After I graduate, I'm going to take at least a year of postgraduate courses in the College of Agriculture. You see, I'm developing a hobby-farming. I want to do something—something constructive. My father wasn't constructive to amount to anything. Neither were you fellows. You struck a new land in pioneer days, and you picked up money like a lot of sailors shaking out nuggets from the grass roots in a virgin

"My lad, I've had some little experience in California farming," Mr. Crockett inter-

rupted, in a hurt way.

"Sure you have, but you weren't constructive. You were-well, facts are facts -you were destructive. You were a bonanza farmer. What did you do? You took forty thousand acres of the finest Sacramento valley soil and you grew wheat on it year after year. You never dreamed of rotation. You burned your straw. You exhausted your humus. You plowed four inches, and put a plow-sole, like a cement sidewalk, just four inches under the sur-You exhausted that film of four inches, and now you can't get your seed back. You've destroyed. Well, I'm going to take my father's money and construct. I'm going to take worked-out wheat land that I can buy as at a fire-sale, rip out the plowsole, and make it produce more in the end than it did when you fellows first farmed it."

It was at the end of his junior year that Mr. Crockett again mentioned Dick's

threatened period of wildness.

"Soon as I'm done with cow college," was his answer. "Then I'm going to buy and stock, and start a ranch that'll be a ranch. And then I'll set out after my careening riot."

"About how large a ranch will you start

with?" Mr. Davidson asked.

"Maybe fifty thousand acres, maybe five hundred thousand—it all depends. I'm going to play unearned increment to the limit. People haven't begun to come to California yet. Without a tap of my hand or a turnover, fifteen years from now land that I can buy for ten dollars an acre will be worth fifty, and what I can buy for fifty will be worth five hundred."

"A half-million acres at ten dollars an acre means five million dollars," Mr.

Crockett warned gravely.

"And at fifty it means twenty-five mil-

lion," Dick laughed.

But his guardians never believed in the wild-oats pilgrimage he threatened. might waste his fortune on newfangled farming, but to go literally wild after such years of self-restraint was an unthinkable

Dick took his sheepskin with small honor. He was twenty-eighth in his class, and he had not set the college world afire. His most notable achievement had been his resistance and bafflement of many nice girls and of the mothers of many nice girls. Next after that, he had signalized his senior year by captaining the 'Varsity to its first victory over Stanford in five years. It was in the day prior to large-salaried football coaches, when individual play meant much; but he hammered team-work and the sacrifice of the individual into his team, so that, on Thanksgiving Day, over a vastly more brilliant eleven, the Blue-and-Gold was able to serpentine its triumph down Market Street in San Francisco.

In his postgraduate year in cow college, Dick devoted himself to laboratory work and cut all lectures. In fact, he hired his own lecturers, and spent a sizable fortune on them in mere traveling expenses over Cali-Jacques Ribot, esteemed one of fornia. the greatest world-authorities on agricultural chemistry, who had been seduced from his two thousand a year in France by the six thousand offered by the University of California, who had been seduced to Hawaii by the ten thousand of the sugar-planters, Dick Forrest seduced with fifteen thousand and the more delectable temperate climate of California on a five years' contract.

Messrs. Crockett, Slocum, and Davidson threw up their hands in horror and knew that this was the wild career Dick Forrest

had forecast.

But this was only one of Dick Forrest's similar dissipations. He stole from the Federal government, at a prodigal increase of salary, its star specialist in live-stock breeding, and, by similar misconduct, he robbed the University of Nebraska of its greatest milch-cow professor, and broke the heart of the dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of California by appropriating Professor Nirdenhammer, the wizard of farm-management.

"Cheap at the price, cheap at the price," Dick explained to his guardians. "Wouldn't you rather see me spend my money in buying professors than in buying race-horses and actresses? Besides, the trouble with you fellows is that you don't know the game of buying brains. I do. That's my specialty. I'm going to make money out of them, and, better than that, I'm going to make a dozen blades of grass grow where you fellows didn't leave room for half a blade in the soil you gutted."

So it can be understood how his guardians could not believe in his promise of wild career of kissing and risking and hitting

men hot on the jaw.

"One year more," he warned, while he delved in agricultural chemistry, soil analysis, farm-management, and traveled California with his corps of high-salaried experts. And his guardians could only apprehend a swift and wide dispersal of the Forrest millions when Dick attained his majority, took charge of the totality of his fortune, and actually embarked on his agricultural folly.

The day he was twenty-one, the purchase of his principality, which extended west from the Sacramento River to the mountain-

tops, was consummated.

"An incredible price," said Mr. Crockett.
"Incredibly cheap," said Dick. "You ought to see my soil-reports. You ought to see my water-reports. And you ought to hear me sing. Listen, guardians, to a song that is a true song. I am the singer and the song."

Whereupon, in the queer, quavering falsetto that is the sense of song to the North American Indian, the Eskimo, and the

Mongol, Dick sang:

"Hu'-tim yo'-kim koi-o-di' ! Wi'-hi yan'-ning koi-o-di' ! Lo'-whi yan'-ning koi-o-di' ! Yo-ho' Nai-ni', hal-u'-dom yo nai, yo-ho' nainin' !"

"The music is my own," he murmured apologetically, "the way I think it ought to have sounded. You see, no man lives who ever heard it sung. The Nishinam got it from the Maidu, who got it from the Konkau, who made it. But the Nishinam and the Maidu and the Konkau are gone. Their last rancheria is not. You plowed it under, Mr. Crockett, with your bonanza, gangplowing, plow-soling farming. And I got the song from a certain ethnological report, volume three, of the United States Pacific Coast Geographical and Geological Survey. Red Cloud, who was formed out of the sky, first sang this song to the stars and the mountain flowers in the morning of the world. I shall now sing it for you in English."

And again, in Indian falsetto, ringing with triumph, vernal and bursting, slapping his thighs and stamping his feet to the accent, Dick sang:

"The acorns come down from heaven!
I plant the short acorns in the valley!
I plant the long acorns in the valley!
I sprout, I, the black-oak acorn, sprout, I sprout!"

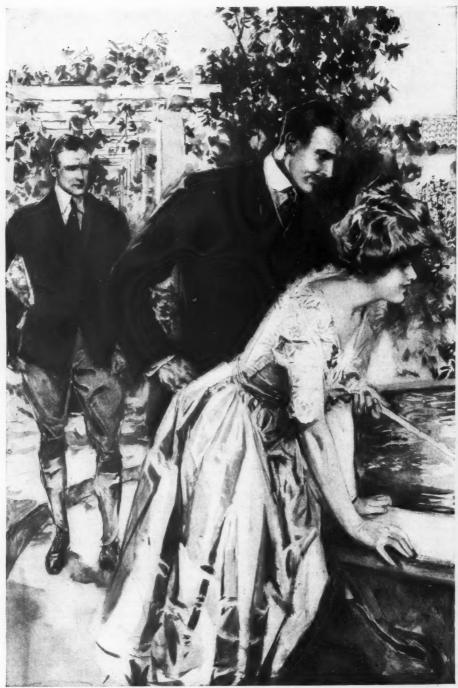
Dick Forrest's name began to appear in the newspapers with appalling frequency. He leaped to instant fame by being the first man in California who paid ten thousand dollars for a single bull. His live-stock specialists, whom he had filched from the Federal government, outbid in England the Rothschilds' 'Shire farm for Hillcrest Chieftain, quickly to be known as Forrest's Folly, paying for that kingly animal no less than five thousand guineas.

"Let them laugh," Dick told his exguardians. "I am importing forty 'Shire mares. I'll write off half his price the first twelvemonth. He will be the sire and grandsire of many sons and grandsons which the Californians will fall over themselves to buy of me at from three to five

thousand dollars a clatter."

Dick Forrest was guilty of many similar follies in those first months of his majority. But the most unthinkable folly of all was, after he had sunk millions into his original folly, that he turned it over to his experts personally to develop along the general broad lines laid down by him, placed checks upon them that they might not go catastrophically wrong, bought a ticket in a passenger-brig to Tahiti, and went away to run wild.

Occasionally his guardians heard from him. At one time he was owner and master of a four-masted steel sailing ship that carried the British flag and coals from New-They knew that much, because they had been called upon for the purchase price, because they read Dick's name in the papers as master when his ship rescued the passengers of the ill-fated Orion, and because they collected the insurance when Dick's ship was lost with most of all hands in the great Fiji hurricane. In 1896, he was in the Klondike; in 1897, he was in Kamchatka and scurvy-stricken, and, next, he erupted with the American flag into the Philippines. Once, although they could never learn how or why, he was owner and master of a crazy tramp steamer, long since



Bert Wainwright, variously advised and commanded by his sister Rita, and by Paula and her sisters,



Lute and Ernestine, was striving with a dip-net to catch a particularly gorgeous flower of a fish

rejected by Lloyd's, which sailed under the

egis of Siam.

From time to time, business correspondence compelled them to hear from him from various purple ports of the purple seas. Once, they had to bring the entire political pressure of the Pacific Coast to bear upon Washington in order to get him out of a scrape in Russia, of which affair not one line appeared in the daily press, but which was secretly provocative of ticklish joy and delight in all the chancelleries of

Europe.

Incidentally, they knew that he lay wounded in Mafeking, that he pulled through a bout with yellow fever in Guayaquil, and that he stood trial for brutality on the high seas in New York city. Thrice they read in the press despatches that he was dead—once, in battle in Mexico; and twice, executed in Venezuela. After much false flutterings, his guardians refused longer to be thrilled when he crossed the Yellow Sea in a sampan, was "rumored" to have died of beriberi, was captured from the Russians by the Japanese at Mukden, and endured military imprisonment in

Japan.

The one thrill of which they were still capable was when, true to promise, thirty years of age, his wild oats sown, he returned to California with a wife to whom, as he announced, he had been married several years, and whom all his three guardians found they knew. Mr. Slocum had dropped eight hundred thousand along with the totality of her father's fortune in the final catastrophe at the Los Cocos mine in Chihuahua when the United States demonetized silver. Mr. Davidson had pulled a million out of the Last Stake along with her father when he pulled eight millions from that sunken, man-resurrected river bed in Amador County. Mr. Crockett, a youth at the time, had "spooned" the Merced bottom with her father in the late 'Fifties, and had stood up best man with him at Stockton when he married her mother.

And Dick Forrest had married the daughter of Philip Desten! It was not a case of wishing Dick luck. It was a case of garrulous insistence on the fact that he did not know how lucky he was. His guardians forgave him all his wildness. He had made good. At last he had performed a purely rational act. Better; it was a stroke of genius. Paula Desten! Philip Desten's

daughter! The Desten blood! The Destens and the Forrests! It was enough. The three aged comrades of Forrest and Desten of the old "gold days" of the two who had played and passed on were even severe with Dick. They warned him of the extreme value of his treasure, of the sacred duty such wedlock imposed on him, of all the traditions and virtues of the Desten and Forrest blood, until Dick laughed and broke in with the disconcerting statement that they were talking like a bunch of fanciers or eugenic cranks—which was precisely what they were talking like, although they did not care to be told so crassly.

At any rate, the simple fact that he had married a Desten made them nod unqualified approbation when he showed them the plans and building estimates of the Big House. Thanks to Paula Desten, for once they were agreed that he was spending wisely and well. As for his farming, it was incontestable that the Harvest group was unfalteringly producing, and he might be allowed his hobbies. Nevertheless, as Mr. Slocum put it: "Twenty-five thousand dollars for a mere work-horse stallion is a madness. Work-horses are work-horses; now

had it been running-stock-"

VIII

FIVE minutes after Paula had left him, punctual to the second, the four telegrams disposed of, Dick was getting into a ranch motor-car, along with Thayer, the Idaho buyer, and Naismith, the special correspondent for the *Breeder's Gazette*. Wardman, the sheep-manager, joined them at the corrals, where several thousand young Shropshire rams had been assembled for inspection.

There was little need for conversation. Thayer was distinctly disappointed in this, for he felt that the purchase of ten car-loads of such expensive creatures was momentous enough to merit much conversation.

"They speak for themselves," Dick had assured him, and turned aside to give data to Naismith for his article on Shropshires in California and the Northwest.

"I wouldn't advise you to bother to select them," Dick told Thayer, ten minutes later. "The average is all top. You could spend a week picking your ten carloads and have no higher grade than if you had taken the first to hand."

This cool assumption that the sale was already consummated so perturbed Thayer, that, along with the sure knowledge that he had never seen so high a quality of rams, he was nettled into changing his order to twenty car-loads.

As he told Naismith, after they had regained the Big House and as they chalked their cues to finish the interrupted game:

"It's my first visit to Forrest's. He's a wizard. I've been buying in the East and importing. But those Shropshires won my judgment. You noticed I doubled my order. Those Idaho buyers will be wild for them. I only had buying orders straight for six car-loads, and contingent on my judgment for two car-loads more; but if every buyer doesn't double his order, straight and contingent, when he sees those rams, and if there isn't a stampede for what's left, I don't know sheep. They're the goods. If they don't jump up the sheep-game of Idaho—well, then Forrest's no breeder and I'm no buyer, that's all."

As the warning gong for lunch rang out—a huge bronze gong from Korea that was never struck until it was first indubitably ascertained that Paula was awake—Dick joined the young people at the goldfish fountain in the big patio. Bert Wainwright, variously advised and commanded by his sister Rita, and by Paula and her sisters, Lute and Ernestine, was striving with a dipnet to catch a particularly gorgeous flower of a fish, whose size and color and multiplicity of fins and tails had led Paula to decide to segregate him for the special breedingtank in the fountain of her own secret patio.

Amid high excitement, and much squealing and laughter, the deed was accomplished, the big fish deposited in a can, and carried away by the Italian gardener.

"And what have you to say for yourself?" Ernestine challenged, as Dick joined them.

"Nothing," he answered sadly. "The ranch is depleted. Three hundred beautiful young bulls depart to-morrow for South America, and Thayer—you met him last night—is taking twenty car-loads of rams. All I can say is that my congratulations are extended to Idaho and Chile."

The bronze gong rang out its second call, and Paula, one arm around Dick, the other around Rita, led the way into the house, while, bringing up the rear, Bert Wainwright showed Lute and Ernestine a new step that he called the "loving slow-drag."

"One thing, Thayer," Dick said, in an aside, after releasing himself from the girls as they jostled in confusion where they met Thayer and Naismith at the head of the stairway leading down to the dining-room. "Before you leave us, cast your eyes over those merinos. I really have to brag about them, and American sheepmen will have to come to them. Of course I started with imported stock, but I've made a California strain that will make the French breeders sit up. See Wardman and take your pick. Get Naismith to look them over with you. Stick half a dozen of them in your trainload, with my compliments, and let your Idaho sheepman get a line on them."

They seated at a table, capable of indefinite extension, in a long, low diningroom that was a replica of the hacienda dining-rooms of the Mexican land kings of old California. The floor was of large brown tiles, the beamed ceiling and the walls were whitewashed, and the huge, undecorated cement fireplace was an achievement in massiveness and simplicity. Greenery and blooms nodded from without the deepembrasured windows, and the room expressed the sense of cleanliness, chastity, and coolness.

On the walls, but not crowded, were a number of canvases—most ambitious of all, in the setting of honor, all in sad grays, a twilight Mexican scene by Xavier Martinez, of a peon, with a crooked-sticked plow and two bullocks, turning a melancholy furrow across the foreground of a sad, illimitable Mexican plain. There were brighter pictures, of early Mexican-Californian life—a pastel of twilight eucalyptus with a sunset-tipped mountain beyond by Reimers; a moonlight by Peters, and a Griffin stubble field, across which gleamed and smoldered Californian summer hills of tawny brown and purple-misted wooded cañons.

"Say," Thayer muttered in an undertone across to Naismith, while Dick and the girls were in the thick of exclamatory and giggling banter, "here's some stuff for that article of yours, if you touch upon the Big House. I've seen the servants' diningroom. Forty head sit down to it every meal, including gardeners, chauffeurs, and outside help. It's a boarding-house in itself. Some head, some system—take it from me. That Chiney boy, Oh Joy, is a wooz. He's housekeeper, or manager, of the whole shebang, or whatever you want to call his job—

and, say, it runs that smooth you can't

"Forrest's the real wooz," Naismith nodded. "He's the brain that picks brains. He could run an army, a campaign, a government, and even a three-ring circus."

"Which last is some compliment," Thayer

concurred heartily.

"Oh, Paula," Dick said across to his wife. "I just got word that Graham arrives to-morrow morning. Better tell Oh Joy to put him in the watch-tower. It's man-size quarters, and it's possible he may carry out his threat and work on his book."

"Graham?" Paula queried aloud of her memory. "Do I know him?"

"You met him once two years ago, in Santiago, at the Café Venus. He had dinner with us."

"Oh, one of those naval officers?"

Dick shook his head.

"The civilian. Don't you remember that big blond fellow—you talked music with him for half an hour, while Captain Joyce talked our heads off to prove that the United States should clean Mexico up and out with the mailed fist?"

"Oh, to be sure!" Paula vaguely recollected. "He's met you before. South Africa,

wasn't it-or the Philippines?"

"That's the chap-South Africa, it was -Evan Graham. Next time we met was on the Times despatch boat on the Yellow Sea. And we crossed trails a dozen times after that, without meeting, until that night in the Café Venus. Heavens-he left Borabora, going east, two days before I dropped anchor bound west on my way to Samoa! I came out of Apia, with letters for him from the American consul, the day before he came in. We missed each other by three days at Levuka—I was sailing the Wild Duck then. He pulled out of Suva as guest on a British cruiser. Sir Everard Im Thurm, British high commissioner of the South Seas, gave me more letters for Graham. I missed him at Port Resolution and at Vila, in the New Hebrides. The cruiser was junketing, you see. I beat her in and out of the Santa Cruz group. It was the same thing in the Solomons. cruiser, after shelling the cannibal villages at Langalanga, steamed out in the morning. I sailed in that afternoon. I never did deliver those letters in person; and the next time I laid eyes on him was

at the Café Venus, in Santiago, two years

"But who about him and what about him?"
Paula queried. "And what's the book?"

"Well, first of all, beginning at the end, he's broke-that is, for him he's broke. He's got an income of several thousand a year left, but all that his father left him is gone. No; he didn't blow it. He got in deep, and the 'silent panic' several years ago just about cleaned him. But he doesn't whimper. He's good stuff, old American stock, a Yale man. The book-he expects to make a bit on it-covers last year's trip across South America, west coast to east coast. It was largely new ground. The Brazilian government voluntarily voted him an honorarium of ten thousand dollars for the information he brought out concerning unexplored portions of Brazil. Oh, he's a man-all man! He delivers the goods. You know the type-clean, big, strong, simple, been everywhere, seen everything, knows most of a lot of things, straight, square, looks you in the eyes-well, in short, a man's man."

Ernestine clapped her hands, flung a tantalizing, man-challenging, man-conquering glance at Bert Wainwright and exclaimed,

"And he comes to-morrow!"

Dick shook his head reprovingly.

"Oh, nothing in that direction, Ernestine! Just as nice girls as you have tried to hook Evan Graham before now. And, between ourselves, I couldn't blame them. But he's had good wind and fast legs, and they've always failed to run him down or get him into a corner, where, dazed and breathless, he'd mechanically muttered, 'Yes' to certain interrogatories and come out of the trance to find himself roped, thrown, branded, and married. Forget him, Ernestine; stick by golden youth and let it drop its golden apples. Pick them up, and golden youth with them, making a noise like stupid failure all the time you are snaring swiftlegged youth. But Graham's out of the running. He's old like me-just about the same age—and, like me, he's run a lot of those queer races. He knows how to make a getaway. He's been cut by barbed wire, nosetwitched, neck-burned, cinched to a fare-youwell, and he remains subdued but uncatchable. He doesn't care for young things. In fact, you may charge him with being wobbly, but I plead guilty, by proxy, that he is merely old, hard bitten, and very wise."

The next instalment of The Little Lady of the Big House will appear in the June issue.



So far, industry, wrestling scientifically with materials, processes, machinery, factory-costs, wastes, and efficiency methods, has swallowed whole the largest waste of all—the waste of the wrong man.

From an American lawyer, distinguished for his constructive thinking, I drew the comment that the evil was one which reaches its maximum in big business. That is true. In big business, the directing brain is a long way from most of the jobs to be filled. Many are the jobs; they are filled by guesswork, by rough estimates of men made by busy department heads or superintendents; time and money are wasted on training these men; an extraordinary percentage is fired, because unfitted for the task. The cost to business has been the expense of an attempt to train the man, the losses

from his inefficiency, the disturbance in continuity of work, the demoralization of a shifting force, the harm to team-play; to the worker having the wrong job is charged up a terrible unestimated cost in time, self-

respect, and confidence.

I talked with a big business organizer, the directing brains of a large industry. I spoke about a scientific choice of men when jobs were to be filled. He said: "You cannot devise a scientific measurement of men which I cannot beat by my personal observation. In fifteen days, I can go out and find fifteen men and will never have to discharge one of them."

A man a day! This executive would have to spend his entire time picking men for his business, and he could not pick more than a small percentage if he did. Nor could his department heads do it. They do not. In practise, the department head interviews an applicant for a job and makes a guess after a few minutes. Then what? He "takes a chance," and hires.

FITTING THE MAN TO HIS JOB

There is a man, named John M. Bruce, who has been giving study to scientific management and shop-efficiency methods, so that he might apply their principles to salesmanship. He had under observation the sales-force of a large industrial corporation whose central office is in New York. And, at last, into his realization was forced this cold, hard fact: Most of the salesmen engaged were soon discharged. For instance, in one case, to fill thirty positions, during a four months' period, one hundred and forty-one men were put to work, and of these, one hundred and eleven were bidden good-by.

And at what cost? It is hard to estimate. But it had been borne for years; it was judged, if judged at all, as a part of the

burden of doing business.

What was done toward a cure for this state of affairs may have far-reaching effect upon industry. Upon these significant beginnings are built new eras of improvement, saving waste, saving men. Other elementary experiments had been tried—selecting motormen and selecting telephone operators by tests of psychology—but these new ventures, in fitting together the right man and the right job, have enlarged the field of attempt.

The men wanted for salesmen were the kind of men physically and mentally fit for the work. Accordingly, under the new plan, all applicants were examined for physical fitness, for devitalizing diseases and for weaknesses especially disqualifying in active tasks—such a weakness as "flat foot," or fallen arches, an infirmity which, where activity is essential, has resulted in many a failure. Those who were sound physically were then sent for mental examination.

HOW THE TESTS WERE MADE

These tests were carried on by Professor Walter Dill Scott, of Northwestern University, by Professor Hugo Munsterberg, of Harvard, and others competent to make the best possible application of psychology for the determination of mental fitness for the particular task of salesmanship.

The tests lasted for nine hours. If you had been an applicant for a job, you would first have been put through a test to determine whether or not you were a moron—a person of arrested mental development. Often of intelligent appearance, mature demeanor, and ability to talk sensibly, a moron cannot be picked out by a casual interview. With the exterior of a man and the brain of a child, say, of fifteen years, the moron is distinguished from normal men by an examination of a simple nature, the well-known Binet tests.

Having passed this test, you would have been submitted to others, varying in nature but aimed at a measurement of the qualities of observation, memory, self-control, mental alertness, and mental experience. You might have been given a newspaper and told to cross out as many "r's" as you could find in a limited time. You might have been asked to stand with a plate of glass before your eyes which was struck with a rubber-tipped hammer to test your mental control over the instinct to wince. Or you might have been asked to look into an apparatus where geometrical figures were exposed for a fraction of a second, and then have been required to give as complete and accurate a description as possible of what you had seen.

Finally, you would have been given an opportunity to visit ten or twelve different instructors for five-minute periods in rapid sequence. Each instructor would have asked you to talk upon some subject—



vanity, the last book you had read, what you did last summer, what methods of salesmanship you would follow, the war in Europe, agriculture, what not, and by your intelligence and ability to interest each of the twelve men, a grade would be given you by the average impression you made.

Two or three times the number of men wanted for the vacant positions are induced to take these tests. The physical test removes ten or fifteen per cent.; the psychological test cuts off fifty per cent. or more. Of thirty-five men in one group, twentynine were left for mental tests, and these tests eliminated seventeen; of the twelve men left, ten graduated from the salesmanship school. And the result? The representatives of the corporation, admitting the limitations of such tests, admitting that here and there may be found cases of efficient men who would fail to pass such tests, nevertheless give the fullest answer to the inquiry of results by presenting the following typical cases to compare the cost of the old system with the cost of the new and the results of each.

OLD SYSTEM—TYPICAL CASE
To fill thirty vacancies, one hundred and

forty-one men were hired, of whom one hundred and eleven were discharged.

The average trial of the hundred and eleven discharged men was six weeks. Charge six weeks, average weekly salary of forty dollars, of one hundred and forty-one men, a hundred and eleven of whom were discharged, to cost of selecting men—\$33,840.

Cost of filling each vacancy—\$1128.

NEW SYSTEM-TYPICAL CASE

34 medical examinations\$	68.00
Psychological examination	116.00
Return-fare and board to re-	
jected men	126.00
Sales-school cost, 10 men, 8 weeks	760.00
Cost of filling each vacancy	207.00

The fact that stands out as most important, however, is that the ten men selected by the new system and hired, with a single exception, are not only still employed by the company after four months of service but, in relation to the older men, are standing conspicuously high. In other words, under the new system, in the four months' period, it has taken only eleven men to fill ten positions. Under the old, it would have taken forty-seven!



Penrod hastily applied the handkerchief to his nose and even more hastily exploded
(SO (Penrod's Busy Day)

Penrod's Busy Day

Magazine readers may differ as to their favorite authors and stories, but upon one point there seems to be a remarkable unanimity of opinion: For developing and describing the situations that arise from the workings of a boy's brain, Mr. Tarkington has never been excelled in any age or in any tongue. Furthermore, he possesses the two essentials of a really great humorist—the quality of his humor is never forced, and the fun derived from his narrative is obtained by appeal to the sympathies of the reader and not by incitement to ridicule. We laugh at Penrod because we understand him and feel for him, and this fact has never been more clearly shown than in the story of this now famous series here printed.

By Booth Tarkington

Author of "The Bonded Prisoner," "The In-Or-In," and other Penrod Schofield stories

Illustrated by Worth Brehm

ENROD had slumped far down in the pew with his knees against the back of that in front, and he also languished to one side, so that the people sitting behind were afforded a view of him consisting of a little hair and one bored ear. The sermon—a noble one, searching and eloquent-was but a persistent sound in that ear, though, now and then, Penrod's attention would be caught by some detached portion of a sentence; then his mind would dwell dully upon the phrases for a little while and lapse into a torpor. At intervals, his mother, without turning her head, would whisper, "Sit up, Penrod," causing him to sigh profoundly and move his shoulders about an inch, this mere gesture of compliance exhausting all the energy that remained to him.

The black backs and gray heads of the elderly men in the congregation oppressed him; they gave him a lethargic and indefinite feeling that he was immersed among lives of repellent dulness. But he should have been grateful to the lady with the artificial cherries upon her hat. His gaze lingered there, wandered away, and hopelessly returned, again and again, to be a little refreshed by the glossy scarlet of the cluster of tiny globes. He was not so fortunate as to be drowsy; that would have brought him some relief—and yet, after a while, his eyes became slightly glazed; he saw dimly, and what he saw was distorted.

The church had been built in the early 'Seventies, and it contained some naive

stained glass of that period. The arch at the top of a window facing Penrod was filled with a gigantic Eye. Of oyster-white and raw blues and reds, inflamed by the pouring sun, it had held an awful place in the infantile life of Penrod Schofield, for, in his tenderer years, he accepted it without question as the literal Eye of Deity. He had been informed that the church was the divine dwelling—and there was the Eye!

Nowadays, being no longer a little child, he had somehow come to know better without being told, and though the great flaming Eye was no longer the terrifying thing it had naturally been to him during his childhood, it nevertheless retained something of its ominous character. It made him feel spied upon and guilty, and its awful glare still pursued him, sometimes, as he was falling asleep at night. When he faced the gaudy window, his feeling toward it was one of dull resentment.

His own glazed eyes, becoming slightly crossed with an ennui which was peculiarly intense this morning, rendered the Eye more monstrous than it was. It expanded to horrible size, growing mountainous; it turned into a volcano in the tropics, and yet it stared at him, indubitably an Eye implacably hostile to all rights of privacy forever. Penrod blinked and clinched his eyelids to be rid of this dual image, and he managed to shake off the volcano. Then, lowering the angle of his glance, he saw something most remarkable—and curiously out of place.

An inverted white soup-plate was lying miraculously balanced upon the back of a pew a little distance in front of him, and upon the upturned bottom of the soupplate was a brown coconut. Mildly surprised, Penrod yawned and, in the effort to straighten his eyes, came to life temporarily. The coconut was revealed as Georgie Bassett's head, and the soup-plate as Georgie's white collar. Georgie was sitting up straight, as he always did in church, and Penrod found this vertical rectitude unpleasant. He knew that he had more to fear from the Eye than Georgie had, and he had the impression (a correct one) that Georgie felt on intimate terms with it and was actually fond of it.

Penrod himself would have maintained that he was fond of it, if he had been asked. He would have said so, because he feared to say otherwise; and the truth is that he never consciously looked at the Eye disrespectfully. He would have been alarmed if he thought the Eye had any way of finding out how he really felt about it. When not off his guard, he always looked at it pla-

catively.

By and by, he sagged so far to the left that he had symptoms of a "stitch in the side," and, rousing himself, sat partially straight for several moments. Then he rubbed his shoulders slowly from side to side against the back of the seat until his mother whispered, "Don't do that, Penrod."

Upon this he allowed himself to slump inwardly till the curve in back of his neck rested against the curved top of the back of the seat. It was a congenial fit, and Penrod again began to move slowly from side to side, finding the friction soothing. Continuance was denied him by a husky,

"Stop that!" from his father.

Penrod sighed, and slid farther down. He scratched his head, his left knee, his right biceps, and his left ankle, after which he scratched his right knee, his right ankle, and his left biceps. Then he said, "Oh, hum!" unconsciously, but so loudly that there was a reproving stir in the neighborhood of the Schofield pew, and his father looked at him angrily.

Finally, his nose began to trouble him. It itched, and after scratching it, he rubbed it harshly. Another "Stop that!" from his father proved of no avail, being greeted by a desperate-sounding whisper, "I got to!"

And continuing to rub his nose with his right hand, Penrod began to search his pockets with his left. The quest proving fruitless, he rubbed his nose with his left hand and searched with his right. Then he abandoned his nose and searched feverishly with both hands, going through all of his pockets several times.

"What do you want?" whispered his

mother.

But Penrod's sister Margaret had divined his need, and she thoughtfully passed him her own handkerchief. This was both thoughtful and thoughtless—the latter because Margaret was in the habit of thinking that she became faint in crowds, especially at the theater or in church, and she had just soaked her handkerchief with spirits of ammonia from a small phial which she carried in her muff.

Penrod hastily applied the handkerchief to his nose and even more hastily exploded. He sneezed stupendously; he choked, sneezed again, wept, passed into a light convulsion of coughing and sneezing together—a mergence of sound which attracted much attention—and, after a few recurrent spasms, convalesced into a condition marked by silent tears and only

sporadic instances of sneezing.

By this time, his family were unanimously scarlet-his father and mother with mortification, and Margaret with the effort to control the almost irresistible mirth which the struggles and vociferations of Penrod had inspired within her. And yet her heart misgave her, for his bloodshot and tearful eyes were fixed upon her from the first and remained upon her, even when half-blinded with his agony; and their expression—as terrible as that of the windowed Eye confronting her—was not for an instant to be misunderstood. Absolutely, he considered that she had handed him the ammonia-soaked handkerchief deliberately and with malice, and well she knew that no power on earth could now or at any time henceforth persuade him otherwise.

"Of course I didn't mean it, Penrod," she said, at the first opportunity upon their homeward way; "I didn't notice—that is, I didn't think—" Unfortunately for the effect of sincerity which she hoped to produce, her voice became tremulous and her

shoulders moved suspiciously.

"Just you wait; you'll see!" he prophesied, in a voice now choking, not with ammonia but with emotion. "Poison a person, and then laugh in his face!"

He spake no more until they had reached their own house, though she made some further futile efforts at explanation and

apology. And after brooding abysmally throughout the meal that followed, he disappeared from the sight of his family for a while, having answered with one frightful

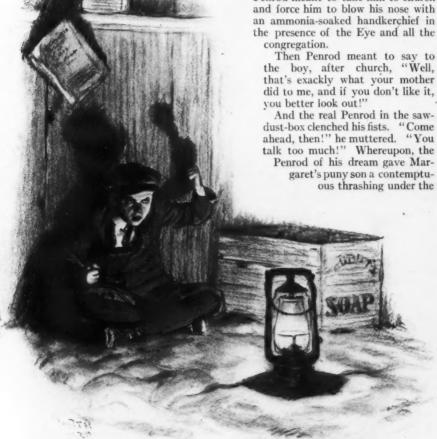
look his mother's timid suggestion that it

was almost time for Sunday-school. He

retired to his eyry—the sawdust-box in the empty stable-and there gave rein to his embittered reflections, incidentally forming many plans for Margaret.

Most of these were much too elaborate, but one was so alluring that he dwelt upon it, working out the details with gloomy pleasure, even after he had perceived its defects. It involved a considerable postponement-in fact, until Margaret should. have become the mother of a boy about Penrod's present age. This boy would be precisely like Georgie Bassett-Penrod con-

ceived that as inevitable—and, like Georgie, he would be his mother's idol. Penrod meant to take him to church



The real Penrod in the sawdust-box elenched his fists. "Come ahead, then!" he muttered. You talk too much!"

eyes of his mother, who besought in vain for mercy. This plan was finally dropped, not because of any lingering nepotism within Penrod but because his injury called for action less belated.

One after another, he thought of impossible things; one after another, he thought of things merely inane and futile, for he was trying to do something beyond his power. Penrod was never brilliant, or even successful, save by inspiration.

At four o'clock he came into the house, still nebulous, and as he passed the open door of the library, he heard a man's voice,

not his father's.

"To me," said this voice, "the finest lines in all literature are those in Tennyson's 'Maud'—

'Had it lain for a century dead, My dust would hear her and beat, And blossom in purple and red, There somewhere around near her feet.'

"I think I have quoted correctly," continued the voice nervously, "but, at any rate, what I wished to—ah—say was that I often think of those—ah—words; but I never think of them without thinking of—

of-of-of you. I-ah-"

The nervous voice paused, and Penrod took an oblique survey of the room, himself unobserved. Margaret was seated in an easy chair with her face turned away from Penrod, so that her expression of the moment remained unknown to him. Facing her, and leaning toward her with perceptible emotion, was Mr. Claude Blakelya young man with whom Penrod had no acquaintance, though he had seen him, was aware of his identity, and had heard speech between Mrs. Schofield and Margaret which indicated that Mr. Blakely had formed the habit of calling frequently at the house. He was a brilliantly handsome young man; indeed, his face was so beautiful that even Penrod was able to perceive something about it which might be explicably pleasing-at least to women. And Penrod remembered that, on the last evening before Mr. Robert Williams' departure for college, Margaret had been peevish because Penrod had genially spent the greater portion of the evening with Robert and herself upon the porch. Margaret made it clear, later, that she strongly preferred to conduct her conversations with friends unassistedand as Penrod listened to the faltering words

of Mr. Claude Blakely, he felt instinctively that, in a certain contingency, Margaret's indignation would be even more severe to-day than on the former occasion.

Mr. Blakely coughed faintly and was

able to continue.

"I mean to say that when I say that what Tennyson says—ah—seems to—to apply to—to a feeling about you——"

At this point, finding too little breath in himself to proceed, in spite of the fact that he had spoken in an almost inaudible tone,

Mr. Blakely stopped again.

Something about this little scene was making a deep impression upon Penrod. What that impression was, he could not possibly have stated; but he had a sense of the imminence of a tender crisis, and he perceived that the piquancy of affairs in the library had reached a point which would brand an intentional interruption as the act of a cold-blooded ruffian. That decided him; his inspiration, so long waited for, had come.

"I—I feel that perhaps I am not plain," said Mr. Blakely, and immediately became red, whereas he had been pale. He was at least modest enough about his looks to fear that Margaret might think he had referred to them. "I mean, not plain in another way—that is, I mean not that I am not plain in saying what I mean to you—I mean, what you mean to mel I feel——"

This was the moment selected by Penrod. He walked carelessly into the library, in-

quiring in a loud, bluff voice,

"Has anybody seen my dog around here

anywheres?"

Mr. Blakely had inclined himself so far toward Margaret, and he was sitting so near the edge of the chair, that only a really wonderful bit of instinctive gymnastics landed him upon his feet instead of his back. As for Margaret, she said, "Good gracious!" and regarded Penrod blankly.

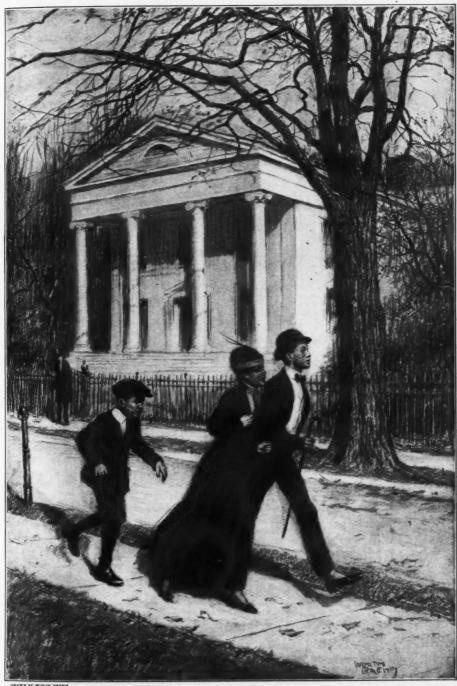
"Well," said Penrod breezily, "I guess it's no use lookin' for him—he isn't anywheres around. I guess I'll sit down." Herewith, he sank into an easy chair, and remarked, as in comfortable explanation, "I'm kind of tired standin' up, anyway."

Even in this crisis, Margaret was a credit to her mother's training.

"Penrod, have you met Mr. Blakely?"

"What?"

Margaret primly performed the rite.
"Mr. Blakely, this is my little brother
Penrod."



"Here," he panted; "there isn't anybody has to have a doctor, I guess! What's the use our walkin' so fast?"

Mr. Blakely was understood to murmur, "How d'ye do?"

"I'm well," said Penrod.

Margaret bent a perplexed gaze upon him, and he saw that she had not divined his intentions, though the expression of Mr. Blakely was already beginning to be a little compensation for the ammonia outrage. Then, as the protracted silence which followed the introduction began to be a severe strain upon all parties, Penrod felt called upon to relieve it.

"I didn't have anything much to do this afternoon, anyway," he said. And at that there leaped a spark in Margaret's eye; her expression became severe.

"You should have gone to Sunday-

school," she told him crisply.

"Well, I didn't!" said Penrod, with a bitterness so significant of sufferings connected with religion, ammonia, and herself, that Margaret, after giving him a thoughtful look, concluded not to urge the point.

Mr. Blakely smiled pleasantly.

"I was looking out of the window a minute ago," he said, "and I saw a dog run across the street and turn the corner."

"What kind of a lookin' dog was it?"

Penrod inquired, with languor.

"Well," said Mr. Blakely, "it was a—it was a nice-looking dog."

"What color was he?"

"He was — ah — white. That is, I

"It wasn't Duke," said Penrod. "Duke's kind of brownish-gray-like."

Mr. Blakely brightened.

"Yes, that was it," he said. "This dog I saw first had another dog with him—a brownish-gray dog."

"Little or big?" Penrod asked, without

interest.

"Why, Duke's a little dog!" Margaret intervened. "Of course, if it was little, it must have been Duke."

"It was little," said Mr. Blakely too enthusiastically. "It was a little bit of a dog. I noticed it because it was so little."

"Couldn't 'a' been Duke, then," said Penrod. "Duke's a kind of a middle-sized dog." He yawned, and added: "I don't want him now. I want to stay in the house this afternoon, anyways. And it's better for Duke to be out in the fresh air."

Mr. Blakely coughed again and sat down, openly nonplused and finding little to say. It was evident, also, that Margaret shared his perplexity; and another silence became so embarrassing that Penrod broke it.

"I was out in the sawdust-box," he said, "but it got kind of chilly." Neither of his auditors felt called upon to offer any comment, and presently he added, "I thought I better come in here where it's warmer."

"It's too warm," said Margaret, at once.
"Mr. Blakely, would you mind opening a

window?"

"By all means!" the young man responded earnestly, as he rose. "Maybe I'd better open two?"

"Yes," said Margaret; "that would be

much better."

But Penrod watched Mr. Blakely open two windows to their widest, and betrayed no anxiety. His remarks upon the relative temperatures of the sawdust-box and the library had been made merely for the sake of creating sound in a silent place. When the windows had been open for several minutes, Penrod's placidity, though gloomy, denoted anything but discomfort from the draft, which was powerful, the day being windy.

It was Mr. Blakely's turn to break a silence, and he did it so unexpectedly that

Margaret started. He sneezed.

"Perhaps—" Margaret began, but paused apprehensively. "Perhaps-perper—" Her apprehensions became more and more poignant; her eyes seemed fixed upon some incredible disaster; she appeared to inflate and swell, while the catastrophe she foresaw became more and more imminent. All at once she collapsed, but the power decorum had over her was attested by the mildness of her sneeze after so threatening a prelude.

"Perhaps I'd better put one of the windows down," Mr. Blakely suggested.

"Both, I believe," said Margaret. "The room has cooled off nicely, now, I think."

Mr. Blakely closed the windows, and, returning to a chair near Margaret, did his share in the production of another long period of quiet. Penrod allowed this one to pass without any vocal disturbance on his part. It may be, however, that his gaze was disturbing to Mr. Blakely, upon whose person it was glassily fixed with a self-forgetfulness that was almost morbid.

"Didn't you enjoy the last meeting of the Cotillion Club?" Margaret said finally.

And upon Mr. Blakely's answering absently in the affirmative, she suddenly

began to be talkative. He seemed to catch a meaning in her fluency, and followed her lead, a conversation ensuing which, at first, had all the outward signs of eagerness. They talked with warm interest of people and events unknown to Penrod; they laughed enthusiastically about things beyond his ken; they appeared to have arranged a perfect way to enjoy themselves, no matter whether he was with them or elsewhere-but presently their briskness began to slacken; the appearance of interest became all too plainly perfunctory. Within ten minutes, the few last scattering semblances of gaiety had passed, and they lapsed into the longest and most profound of all their silences indoors that day. Its effect on Penrod was to make him yawn and settle himself in his chair.

Then Mr. Blakely, coming to the surface out of deep inward communings, snapped his thumb against the palm of his

hand impulsively.
"By George!" he exclaimed, under his

"What is it?" Margaret asked.

you remember something?" "No; it's nothing," he said. "Nothing at all. But, by the way, it seems a pity for you to be missing the fine weather. I wonder if I could persuade you to take a

Margaret, somewhat to the surprise of both the gentlemen present, looked un-

"I don't know—" she said.

Mr. Blakely saw that she missed his

"One can talk better in the open, don't you think?" he urged, with a significant glance toward Penrod.

Margaret also glanced keenly at Penrod. "Well, perhaps." And then, after another quick view of her brother's face, "I'll get my hat," she said.

Penrod was on his feet before she left the room. He stretched himself.

"I'll get mine, too," he said.

But he carefully went to find it in a direction different from that taken by his sister, and he joined her and her adult escort not till they were at the front door, whither Mr. Blakely—with a last flickering of hope—had urged a flight in haste.

"I been thinkin' of takin' a walk, all afternoon," said Penrod pompously. "Don't matter to me which way we go."

The exquisite oval of Mr. Claude Blakely's face merged into outlines more rugged than usual; the conformation of his jaw became perceptible, and it could be seen that he had conceived an idea which was crystallizing into a set determination.

"I believe it happens that this is our first walk together," he said to Margaret, as they reached the pavement, "but, from the kind of tennis you play, I judge that you could go a pretty good gait. Do you like walking fast?"

She nodded.

"For exercise."

"Shall we try it then?"

"You set the pace," said Margaret. "I think I can keep up."

He took her at her word, and the amazing briskness of their start seemed a little sinister to Penrod, though he was convinced that he could do anything that Margaret could do, and also that neither she nor her comely friend could sustain such a pace for On the contrary, they actually increased it with each fleeting block they

"Here," he panted, when they had thus put something more than a half-mile behind them; "there isn't anybody has to have a doctor, I guess! What's the use our

walkin' so fast?"

In truth, Penrod was not walking, for his shorter legs permitted no actual walking at such a speed; his gait was a half-trot.

"Oh, we're out for a walk!" Mr. Blakely returned, a note of cheer beginning to sound in his voice. "Marg-ah-Miss Schofield, keep your head up and breathe through your nose. That's it. You'll find I was right in suggesting this walk. It's going to turn out gloriously. Now, let's make it a little faster.

Margaret murmured inarticulately, for she would not waste her breath in a more coherent reply. Her cheeks were flushed; her eyes were brimming with the wind, but when she looked at Penrod, they were brimming with something more. Gurgling

sounds came from her.

Penrod's expression had become grim. He offered no second protest, mainly because he, likewise, would not waste his breath, and if he would, he could not. Of breath in the ordinary sense-breath, breathed automatically-he had none. He had only gasps to feed his straining lungs, and his half-trot, which had long since

become a trot, was changed for a lope when Mr. Blakely reached his own best

burst of speed.

And now people stared at the flying three. The gait of Margaret and Mr. Blakely could be called a walk only by courtesy,

while Penrod's was becoming a kind of blind scamper. At times, he zigzagged; other times, he fell behind, wabbling. Anon, with elbows flopping and his face sculptured like an antique mask, he would actually forge ahead a few feet, and then carom from one to the other of his companions

as he fell back again.

coming of autumn dusk, outflying the fallen leaves that tumbled upon the wind. And still Penrod held to the task that he had set himself. The street-lamps flickered into life, but on and on Claude Blakely led the lady, and on and on reeled the grim Penrod. Never once was

Thus the trio sped through the

he so far from them that they could have exchanged a word unchaperoned by his throbbing "Oh!" Margaret cried, and, halting sudden-

ly, she draped herself about a lamp-post like a strip of bunting. "Guh-uh-guhgoodness!" she

sobbed.

Penrod immediately drooped to the curb-stone, which he reached, by pure fortune, in a sitting position. Mr. Blakely leaned against a fence, and said nothing, though

his breathing was eloquent. "We-we must go-go home," Margaret gasped. "We must, if -if we can drag ourselves!" Then Penrod showed them what

"This has been a nice day!" Penrod muttered hoarsely

mettle they had tried to crack. A paroxysm of coughing shook him; he spoke through

it sobbingly.
"'Drag!' 'S jus' lul-like a girl! Ha-why I walk-oof!-faster'n that every day-on my-way to school." He managed to subjugate a tendency to nausea, and even to cover it from detection underneath a protracted cough. "What you—want to go—home for?" he said. "Le 's go on!"

In the darkness, Mr. Claude Blakely's expression was not to be seen, nor was his voice heard. For those and other reasons, his opinions and sentiments may not be stated.

Mrs. Schofield was looking rather anxiously forth from her front door when the two adult figures and the faithful smaller one came up the walk.

"I was getting uneasy," she said. "Papa and I came in and found the house empty. It's after seven. Oh, Mr. Blakely, is that

"Good-evening," he said. "I fear I must be keeping an engagement. Good-night. Good-night, Miss Schofield."

"Good-night."

"Well, good-night," Penrod called, staring after him. But Mr. Blakely was already too far away to hear him, and a moment later Penrod followed his mother and sister into the house.

"I let Della go to church," Mrs. Schofield said to Margaret. "You and I might help Mary get supper."

"Not for a few minutes," Margaret returned gravely, looking at Penrod. "Come up-stairs, mamma; I want to tell you something."

Penrod cackled hoarse triumph and de-

"Go on! Tell! What 'I care? You try to poison a person in church again, and then laugh in his face, you'll see what you get!"

But after his mother had retired with Margaret to the latter's room, he began to feel disturbed, in spite of his firm belief that his cause was wholly that of justice victorious. Margaret had insidious ways of stating a case, and her point of view, no matter how absurd or unjust, was almost always adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Schofield in cases of controversy. Penrod became uneasy. Perceiving himself to be in danger, he decided that certain measures were warranted. Unquestionably, it would be well to know beforehand in what terms

Margaret would couch the charges which he supposed he must face in open courtthat is to say, at the supper-table. He stole softly up the stairs, and, flattening himself against the wall, approached Margaret's door, which was about an inch ajar.

He heard his mother making sounds which appalled him—he took them for sobs. And then Margaret's voice rang out in a peal of insane laughter. Trembling, he crept nearer the door. Within the room, Margaret was clinging to her mother, and both were trying to control their hilarity.

"He did it all to get even!" Margaret exclaimed, wiping her eyes. "He came in at just the right time. That goose was beginning to talk his silly, soft talk—the way he does with every girl in town-and he was almost proposing, and I didn't know how to stop him. And then Penrod came in and did it for me. I could have hugged Penrod, mamma-I actually could! And I saw he meant to stay to get even for that ammonia-and, oh, I worked so hard to make him think I wanted him to go! Mamma, mamma, if you could have seen that walk! That goose kept thinking he could wear Penrod out or drop him behind, but I knew he couldn't as long as Penrod believed he was worrying us and getting even. And that goose thought I wanted to get rid of Penrod, too; and the conceited thing said it would turn out gloriously, meaning we'd be alone together pretty soon-I'd like to shake him! You see, I pretended so well, in order to make Penrod stick to us, that goose believed I meant it! And if he hadn't tried to walk Penrod off his legs, he wouldn't have wilted his own collar and worn himself out, and I think he'd have hung on until you'd have had to invite him to stay to supper, and he'd have stayed on all evening, and I wouldn't have had a chance to write to Robert Williams. Mamma, there have been lots of times when I haven't been thankful for Penrod, but today I could have got down on my knees to you and papa for giving me such a brother!"

In the darkness of the hall, as a small but crushed and broken form stole away from the crack in the door, a gigantic Eye seemed to form-seemed to glare down upon Penrod -warning him that the way of vengeance is the way of bafflement, and that genius may not prevail against the trickeries of women.

"This has been a nice day!" Penrod muttered hoarsely.

The next Penrod Schofield story will be The Reward of Merit.

Rosanne Ozanne

The peculiarities of Rosanne Ozanne's character, so entirely different from that of her twin sister Rosalie, would seem to have some connection with her surroundings in infancy. When a year old, she, supposedly dying, was given by her mother into the hands of her Malay cook, who says she will save the child's life if she may have her for two years. Her statement proves true, but Rosanne, as she develops into womanhood, is a puzzle to the circle in Kimberley in which the Ozannes move. She has a passion for diamonds, and acquires a number of gems in a way of which even her own mother knows nothing. She has accepted the hand of Sir Denis Harlenden, but tells her intimates that she can never marry him. People who incur her displeasure have a way of promptly falling into misfortune. She becomes angry with her sister's fiancé, Richard Gardner, and the young man is soon ill with what appears to be a malignant disease of the throat. When the news comes, Rosalie is overcome, and Mrs. Ozanne asks Rosanne if she cannot do something. The latter's reply is that she, too, bears a burden of sorrow.

By Cynthia Stockley

Illustrated by George Gibbs

OSALIE OZANNE kept her bed for a week or more. She had sunk into a sort of desolate lethargy of mind and body from which nothing could rouse her. Her mother was in despair. Richard Gardner was too ill to come to see the girl he loved, and he did not write. The blow that had fallen upon his promising and prosperous life seemed to have shattered his nerves and benumbed his initiative. He had no words of hope for Rosalie; so he said nothing. Thus, in silence and apart, the two were suffering their young agony of wrecked hopes and love laid on its bier.

Rosanne, meanwhile, to all appearances, went on her way rejoicing. For a moment, in the shock of mutual grief over Rosalie's trouble, she and her mother had drawn nearer in spirit, and strange words of sorrow and sympathy, as though dragged from her very depths, had come faltering from the girl's lips. But the next day all trace of such unaccustomed softness had disappeared. She was her gay, resilient self once more, bright and hard as the stones she loved to wear, and more reserved and withdrawn from her family than ever. She avoided both her mother and sister as much as possible, spending most of her time in her own room or with her friend Kitty Drummund. As usual, too, she was often · out riding and driving-but no longer with Denis Harlenden. Major Satchwell had been received back into the favor of her

intimate friendship, and it was he who was always to be found riding or limping at her side.

Harlenden had not called at Tiptree House since the night when, after the Chilvers' dinner-party, he had requested an interview with Mrs. Ozanne and been asked to wait until a more propitious moment. Indeed, the latter, with mind full of foreboding and sorrow for her stricken child, had almost forgotten that he had ever made such a request. But Rosanne had not forgotten. And Rosanne knew why her lover stayed away from Tiptree House. He had made his reason sufficiently clear in a letter she had received the morning after their last meeting in the veranda. The terse sentences of that letter were like himself-cold and quiet without, but with the burn of hidden fires beneath the surface.

Until you are prepared to let the world know how things are with us, I shall not come again. And another thing, Rosanne: I love you. Your kiss is on my lips, and no other woman's lips shall ever efface its exquisite memory. You love me, too, I think. But do you love me more than certain other things? If not, and if you cannot be the Rosanne I wish you to be, caring only for such things as are worthy of your beauty and my pride, this love of ours can never come to its perfection but will have to be rooted out and crushed as a useless, hopeless thing. When you see this as I do, send for me. I shall not be long in coming.

Curiously enigmatic words, if read by any but the eyes for which they were intended. But Rosanne knew what they

meant, and read them with her teeth dug into her lip and cheeks pale as a bone. The first time she read them she burst into a furious, ringing laugh, and crushing the letter into a ball, flung it into the wastepaper basket and went out. That was the afternoon on which she renewed her friendship with Everard Satchwell. But when she came home she sought the wastepaper basket, and taking out the letter, uncrumpled it and read it again. Thereafter she read it many times. Sometimes she went to bed with it crushed to her breast. But she never answered it. Instead, she wrote to Everard Satchwell and completed the work, already begun, of beguiling him back into her life just as he was beginning to hope he could do without her.

One day, when she was out riding with him, they met Harlenden riding alone. He had a moody, lonely look that wrenched at her heart for a moment until she saw the civilly indifferent smile with which he returned her half-appealing glance and Satchwell's cheery greeting. As their eyes met, his were so empty of what she knew they could contain for her that her heart turned cold in her breast. For the first time, the well-bred impassivity of his face irked and infuriated her. She doubted, almost hated him. She could have struck him with her riding-whip because he gave no sign of the hurt she had dealt him, but, instead, her face grew almost as smilingly masklike as his own; only when she got home, within the refuge of her bedroom walls, did it change and become distorted with pain and rage, its beauty marred and blotted out with tears.

That he should ride coolly by and give no sign, while her heart ached as if a knife were in it, while she drained to the dregs the cup of lonely love! That was bitter. But bitterer still the knowledge that within herself lay the reason of their separation, as well as the power to end it. She could bring him back this very hour if she wished, was her thought. Yet, could she? Were not those other bonds that held her soul in slavery stronger than herself—stronger (as he had suggested in his letter) than her love for Denis Harlenden?

Miserably, her face lifeless and pale as the face of one who has lain among the ashes of renouncement and repentance, she rose from the bed where she had flung herself weeping, and creeping to an old-fashioned oak bureau

of heavy make, sat down before it and began to unlock its many drawers and take therefrom a number of little jewel-cases. by one she opened these and spread before her the radiant, sparkling things they contained with their myriad points of light and dancing color. She ran the things through her fingers and bathed her hands in them like water. Then she curved her palms into a cup and held them filled to the brim with such a sparkling draft as only a god could drink-a draft with fire and ice in it, blood and crystal water, purity and evil. The roses of life and the blue flowers of death were all intermingled and reflected in that magic draft of frozen fire and liquid crystal. As the girl gazed into it, color came back to her pale face, and her eyes caught and returned the flashing beams of light. It almost seemed as if she and the stones, able to communicate, were exchanging the signals of some secret code.

One jewel was more beautiful than all the rest, the lovely, flexible chain of stones she had been holding to her breast that night when Harlenden surprised her coming from the garden into the veranda—the thing he had shaken from her hand into her lap as if it had been a toad. She remembered Harlenden, now, as she gazed into the iridescent shapes of light, seeming to see in their brilliant, shallow depths worlds of romance that every-day life knew not of. At last she caught the thing up and kissed it burningly, then pressed it against her heart as if it possessed some quality of spikenard to ease the pain she still felt aching there. The sound of the dinner-gong shook her from her strange dreams, and hastily, yet with a sort of lingering regret, she began to gather up the jewels and lay them once more into their downy nests of white velvet. Her fingers caressed and her eyes embraced every single stone as she laid it

"I must get some more," she murmured feverishly to herself; "I must get some more—soon!"

She had forgotten Denis Harlenden now. Her lips took on a hungry, arid line, and her eyes were suddenly hard and more brilliant than the stones she handled. The lust of diamonds, which is one of the greatest and most terrible of all the lusts, had got her in its scorpion-claws and was squeezing love from her heart and beauty from her soul.

"Rosanne, your sister is worse," her mother said, at dinner. They had reached dessert, but these were the first words that had passed between them. Rosanne's shoulders moved with the suggestion of a shrue.

"I think she gives way," she remarked coldly. "She could shake off that illness with the exercise of a little self-control."

"It is easy to talk like that when you are not the sufferer, dear. You forget that her whole heart is wrapped up in Dick. I believe that if he dies, she will—" The mother's words ended in something very like a sob. She looked utterly worn out and wretched. Her eyes wistfully searched Rosanne's, but the latter's mood appeared to be one of complete sang-froid.

"You always look on the worst side of things, mother," she said calmly. "If Dick dies, and I dare say he will—cancer of the throat is nearly always fatal, I believe—Rosalie will get over it in time and

marry some other man."

"Rosanne, I never thought you could

be so heartless!"

"Nonsense, mother; it isn't heartlessness but common sense, and I think you ought not to encourage Rosalie by being sympathetic. A little bracing brutality is what she needs to pull her out of her sickly misery."

Mrs. Ozanne rose, her eyes shining with

anger as well as tears.

"I forbid you to speak to me of your unhappy sister unless you can speak kindly," she said, and added harshly, "I sometimes think, Rosanne, that you are either not my child or that that Malay woman bewitched and cast some evil spell over you when you were a baby."

Rosanne looked at her with musing eyes. "I have sometimes thought so myself," she said slowly, "and that, instead of you reproaching me, it is I who have the right to reproach you for bartering me away to witchcraft rather than letting me die an

innocent little child."

Sophia Ozanne's lips fell apart, and the color died slowly out of her handsome wholesome-looking face. She said nothing while she stood there gazing for a long minute at her daughter; but her breath came laboriously, and she held her hand over her heart as if she had received a blow there. At last, in silence, she walked heavily from the room.

Rosanne helped herself daintily to fruit salad, but when she had it on her plate, she did nothing but stare at it. After a few moments she rang the bell and sent out a message to the stables that she would require the carriage for an hour.

"And tell my mother, if she asks, that I have gone to Mrs. Drummund's," she directed old Maria, as she went away to her

room to put on a hat and wrap.

"It is pretty awful at home now," she complained to Kitty Drummund, some twenty minutes later. "The whole house is wrapped in gloom because Dick Gardner has a sore throat. One might as well live in a mausoleum."

"Dearest, it is a little more than a sore throat, isn't it? Len saw Tommy Gardner to-day, and he says Dick is in awful pain and can't speak. They are sending him away to the Cape to-night, as a last hope. Doctor Raymond, there, is supposed to be wonderfully clever with affections of the throat, though I must say I don't believe it will be much good, since Stratton has condemned him."

"Oh, talk about something else, Kit, for heaven's sake!" cried Rosanne, with a sudden access of desperate irritation. "I can't bear any more Dick Gardner."

Kitty stroked the hair and bare shoulders of the girl sitting on the floor beside her.

"I know you're not really heartless, Nan, but you do sound so sometimes. I expect all this trouble at home is on your nerves a little bit. Tell me, how are your own affairs, darling? Is the engagement still going on?"

"No; the engagement is finished. I told

you I never meant to marry him."

"I think you are making an awful mistake, Nan. He's the only man for you—the only man who can—"

"Can what?" asked Rosanne, with fierce moodiness. "Save my soul alive?"

"How strange! Those were the very words I was going to use, though I don't know why. They just came into my head."

"Everyone seems to be hitting the right nail on the head to-night," commented Rosanne dryly. "First, my mother; now, you. I wonder who'll be the third. All good things run in threes, don't they?"

Kitty knew better than to try to cope with her in that mood, so she remained silent until Rosanne rose and caught up her

hat.



"Oh, yes, dot" said Rosanne, wearily ironical. "Do tell me something that will make life seem less of an atrocious joke than it is—especially if you oughtn't to tell."

"Well, we're not supposed to breathe anything like this outside the compound walls, you know. Len told me not to mention it to a soul; but I don't expect he meant to include you, for, of course, you are all right."

"Of course!" Rosanne smiled mockingly at herself in the mirror before which she was arranging her hair preparatory to posing her hat upon it.

"Well, my dear, just think! They've discovered a Kafir boy in the compound who has been stealing thousands of pounds' worth of diamonds for months, and passing

"He made a little tunnel from under his sleeping-bunk to the outside of the compound wall, about a yard and a half long, and through that he would push a parcel of diamonds by means of a stick with a flat piece of tin at the end of it, something like a little rake and exactly the same length as the tunnel. He always pushed a little heap of earth through first, so as to cover the diamonds up from any eyes but those of his confederate outside. When the confederate had removed the diamonds, he pushed back the earth against the tin rake, which the boy always left in place until he had another packet of diamonds ready to put through. In this way, the hole was never exposed, except during the few moments, once a

week, when the boy was putting in a fresh

"But how awfully thrilling!" exclaimed

Rosanne again.

"Yes; isn't it? What they want to do now is to catch the confederate who is, of course, the real culprit, for encouraging an ignorant Kafir to steal."

"Who could it possibly be?"

"Goodness knows! Such heaps of people come inside this outer compound, tradespeople, servants with messages, and so on. But just think of it, Nan! Thousands of pounds' worth, and the Kafir boy only got ten pounds for each packet he pushed through."

"Well, what would a Kafir do with thousands of pounds, anyway?" said Ro-"I think ten sanne, laughing irrelevantly.

pounds was quite enough.

"That's true-too much for the wretch, indeed! However, he has confessed and told everything he could to help our people to trap the other wretch. Unfortunately, that is not very much."

"No?"

"No; he says he has never seen the man who fetches the diamonds. The only one he has ever seen was a man he is not able to describe because he is so ordinary-looking, who came to his kraal in Basutoland about seven months ago, and made the whole plan with him to come and work on contracts of three months at a time as a compound-boy, steal as many diamonds as he could, and pass them out in the way I have described. Each parcel was to cost ten pounds and to contain no less than ten diamonds. No money passed between them, but every time a parcel was put through the tunnel, the confederate on the other side put a blue bead in its place among the sand. The boy found the bead and kept it as a receipt, and when he came out at the end of every three months' contract, he wore a bracelet of blue beads on his wrist. Naturally, the authorities didn't take any notice of this when they searched him, for nearly all Kafirs wear beads of some kind. These beads were quite a common kind to look at; only when they were examined carefully were they found to have been passed through some chemical process which dyed the inside a peculiar mauve color, making it impossible for the Kafir to cheat by adding ordinary blue beads (of which there are plenty for sale in the compound) to his little bunch of "receipts."

"How clever!" said Rosanne. how are they going to catch the confederate? Put a trap-parcel, I suppose, and pounce on him when he comes to fetch it?"

She had seated herself again, opposite Kitty, her arms resting on the back of the chair, her face vivid with interest.

"Cleverer than that," announced Kitty. "They are going to put the trap and watch who fetches it. But they won't pounce on him; they mean to follow him up and arrest the whole gang."
"Gang?"

"Len says there's sure to be a gang of them, and, for the sake of getting them all, parcel after parcel of stones will be put through the tunnel, if necessary, until every one of them is traced and arrested.'

"Rather risky for the diamonds, I should

think!'

"They'll only put inferior ones in. Besides, the Kafir-boy's contract is up in a week's time, and if all the gang aren't caught by then, they're going to let the boy go out and meet his confederate to deliver his beads, and then the arrest will be made."

"Surely the Kafir was able to describe him, if he had been in the habit of meeting

him every three months?"

"He says he was a young white boy, very thin, who wears a mask and an overcoat. They have met twice at night, in an old unused house in the Malay compound, the other side of Kimberley. Can you imagine anyone running such awful risks for the sake of diamonds, Nan? But Len says it goes on all the time-this illicit diamond-buying business-and the company loses thousands of pounds every year and is hardly ever able to catch the thieves. They're as clever as paint! They have to be, for if they are caught it means ten to twenty years' imprisonment for them, as they know. Mustn't it be awful to live in such a state of risk and uncertainty, never knowing when you're going to be found out, for, of course, there are plenty of detectives on the watch for illicit buying all the time?"

"Awful-yes, but terribly exciting," Rosanne said musingly. "Don't you think so?" she added quickly, and began to pull

on her gloves.

"Ah, don't go, yet!" cried Kitty. "Len will be dreadfully disappointed to find you

"Tell him you told me the story," laughed Rosanne. "That will cheer him up."

"I don't think I shall," said Kitty soberly. "I'm afraid he'd be awfully mad with me, after all, even though it is only you I've told. He'll say women can't keep things to themselves, and that you're sure to tell some one else, and so the whole thing will get about."

"You needn't worry, dear. It will never get about through me," said Rosanne quietly, and, kissing Kitty good-night, she

went her ways.

As she passed through the brightly lit outer compound, stepping briskly toward the big gate, she was aware of more than one lurking shadow behind the blueground heaps. Also, it seemed to her that various guards were more alert than usual in their guard-houses. But she gave no faintest sign of observing these things, greeted the guard at the gate pleasantly, and, passing out to the street, stepped into the waiting carriage and was driven home.

It wanted a few minutes to midnight when she stole from the veranda door of her room once more, dressed in her dim, straight gown of moonlight velvet with a swathe of colorless veil about her head, and, sliding softly through the garden, went out into the quiet streets of the town until she came, at last, to a little indistinguished door next to a jeweler's window, whereon was neatly inscribed the name, "Syke Ravenal." On knocking gently three times, the door opened mechanically to admit her. Inside all was dark; but a few paces down a passage brought her to a door that opened into a small but brightly lighted room. An elderly man was seated at a table engaged in beautifully illuminating a parchment manuscript. This was Syke Ravenal.

"You are very late, my child," he said, in a gently benevolent tone. His voice

was rich and sonorous.

"It was not safe to come before."

"Safe?" His dark, hawklike face did not change, but there was a sound in his voice like the clank of broken iron.

"They've caught Hlangeli," she said.

"Ah!" He carefully folded the manuscript between two protecting sheets of blotting-paper and placed it in the drawer of his table. His hands shook as if with ague, but his voice was as perfectly composed as his face when he spoke again.

"Tell me all about it, my child."
"They got him in the compound to-day, as he was putting the parcel through. He

has confessed as much as he knows about your son going to the kraal, and the blue beads, and the old house in the Malay compound where he was paid. They have now set a trap-parcel of stones and are sitting in wait to catch the confederate." She sank down in a chair opposite to him and leaned her elbows on the table. "To catch me," she said slowly.

He looked at her keenly. Her face was deadly pale, but there was no trace of fear in it. Whatever Rosanne Ozanne may have been, she was no coward. Neither

was the man opposite her.

"Ah! They have no inkling, of course, that it was you who met Hlangeli and paid

him?'

"No; he was not able to tell them any more than that it was a white boy." She added, with the ghost of a smile, "A thin, white boy in a mask and an overcoat."

"Well, that's all right. They won't catch you, and they won't catch me, and Saul is safe in Amsterdam. Luck is on our side, as she always is on the side of good players. Hlangeli must foot the bill, because he played badly."

Rosanne sat listening. It was plain that Hlangeli's fate was a matter of indifference to her, but some storm was brewing behind her smoldering eyes. Ravenal went

on calmly:

"It's been a good game while it lasted. The pity is that it must come to an end."

Then the storm broke forth.

"But it must not come to an end!" she burst out violently. "I can't live without it!"

The man looked at her reflectively.

"You're a great sport. I've never known a woman with finer nerve. But, just the same, the game has got to come to an end."

"Game! You don't understand. It is meat and drink to me. I must have diamonds." She sounded like a woman pleading for some drug to deaden pain, memory, and conscience. Her voice was wild; she put out her hands to him in an imploring gesture. "I have given up everything for them—everything!"

He shook his head.

"We can't do any more of it," he said inflexibly. "Not for a year, at the outside."

Her hands fell on the table. She shivered as though she already felt cold and hunger. "Suffer torment for a year?" she muttered. "It is impossible. I can't. I have

nothing else. I've sacrificed everything to it-duty, friendship, love!" She leaned her head in her hands, and Ravenal did not

hear the last words.

"Pull yourself together, my child. It is not like you to give way like this. Listen: Go home now and sit tight. Nerve and a quiet going about your ways are what are needed for the next few weeks. Don't come near me unless you have anything important to communicate; then come in the ordinary way to the shop with some jewel to be mended. But remember: There is no possible channel through which they can connect either of us with Hlangeli, and nothing in the world to fear."

"It is not fear I feel," she said dully. "I know. It is disappointment. You are broken-hearted because the black diamonds cannot be handed over to you."

She did not speak, but if ever a woman's face betrayed hunger and passionate longing, hers did at that moment. All her beauty was gone. There was nothing but a livid mask with two burning eves. A pitving look crossed Ravenal's face. He

was not an unkindly man.

"Poor child," he said gently, "it's hard on you!" For a moment he seemed to hesitate, then, coming to a swift decision, rose and went over to a safe embedded in the wall, and almost unnoticeable by reason of a piece of Oriental embroidery pinned above it and a chair standing carelessly before it. Unlocking it, he brought to the table a small jewel-case.

"I'll tell you what I'll do. I can't let you have it for good, because it's not earned yet. Twenty more rough stones are wanted from you before this is yours. That was the bargain. But, considering all the circumstances, I'll lend it to you for

a while.'

Before he had finished speaking she had seized the case from his hands and pressed it open. A magnificent pendant gleamed up at her with all the smoky, mysterious

beauty of black diamonds.

"I know I can trust you with it, for I have trusted you with more than that. My life is in your hands, just as much as yours is in mine. So keep the thing, and finish paying for it when you can. If we're never able to get any more rough diamonds from the mine, you'll have to pay in money."

She hardly seemed to hear, so wrapped was she in the contemplation of her new treasure, brooding and crooning over it like a mother with a child. He watched her for a moment, then rose and fetched the gray veil she had cast off on entering.

"Come now, my child; it is late, and you must be gone. Be careful. I know I need not remind you of the oath between us

three."

"Silence-and suicide, if necessary," she murmured mechanically. She had taken the jewel from its case and was threading it on a chain round her throat. "Death rather than betray the other two."

"That's it," said the other, with cheer-ful firmness. "Now, good-night."

He lowered the lights and opened the door of the room. She passed into the dark passage, and he returned to the table and pressed a button which opened the front door. When he heard it softly close, he knew that she was out of the house and on

her way home.

But her adventures were not yet over. Before she had gone very far she was aware of being followed. A mirror in a shop window reflected, afar off, the silhouette of the only other person besides herself in the now silent street—a tall man in a slouch hat. Apparently he had on shoes as light as her own, for his feet made no more noise than hers, though her fine ear detected the steady beat of them behind her. For the first time, she knew terror. Supposing it were a detective who had tracked her from Syke Ravenal's door, and was now waiting to arrest her as she entered her own home! She realized that her courage had lain in the knowledge of absolute security, for now, at the menace of discovery, her heart was paralyzed with fright and she could scarcely breathe. Instinct told her to run, but acquired selfcontrol kept her from this madness, and, by a great effort, she continued walking quietly as before. Gradually her nerve returned. She determined, by feint, to discover whether the man were really following her or if his presence were due to accident. Having now arrived at the residential part of the town, where every house stood back from the road and was sheltered by a garden, she coolly opened a gate at random and walked boldly in. The man was still some way behind, and she had ample time to pass through the garden and reach the veranda before he drew near.

It was a house strange to her, and she had



"You are very late, my child," he said, in a gently benevolent tone. His voice was rich and sonorous. "It was not safe to come before." "Safe?" His dark, hawklike face did not change, but there was a sound in his voice like the clank of broken iron. "They've caught Hlangeli," she said

not the faintest idea who lived there. All the windows and doors were closed and shuttered, but light showed through a fanlight over the hall door. The veranda, blinded by heavy green mats, contained the usual array of chairs, and she sank down on one, her heart beating like a drum, her ears strained to hear her pursuer pass. Instead, to her horror, she heard the gate briskly unlatched and footsteps on the path. Terrified by this unexpected move, and sure, now, that the end had come, she sprang to her feet and stood waiting like a straight, gray ghost for the man to enter the veranda. The light above the hall door fell full on him, and it is hard to say whether dismay or horror were strongest in her when she recognized Harlenden.

"Denis!" she stammered.

"Why are you here, Rosanne?" he asked quietly. "Do you need me?"

Astonishment kept her dumb for a moment, then, with a realization of the position, came anger.

"How dare you follow me?" she exclaimed, in a low, tense voice.

"I live in this house," was the equable

"You live here?" she faltered, and sat down suddenly, trembling from head to foot. "Yes; and I have just returned from the

club."

"Then it was not you following me?"
At that she sprang up and threw herself into his arms in a frenzy of fear.

"Who was it, then? Oh, Denis, Denis, save me; take me into your house—hide me!"

"Hush!" he said gently, and, keeping a supporting arm about her, guided her round the veranda, took a key out of his pocket, and let her and himself in by a side door. He closed and locked the door behind them, put her into a chair, then examined the window to make sure it was closed as well as shuttered. It was a man's sitting-room, full of the scent of leather and tobacco. Going to a spirit-stand on the table he poured out some brandy.

"Drink this," he said, in the same firm tone he had used all along, and mechan-

ically she obeyed him.

"Where are we?" she murmured. "Whose house is this? I thought you lived at the club?"

"So I did until last week, when this house was lent me. Don't be afraid. The servants are all in bed, and there is no one

about. You are much safer here than roaming about the streets at one in the morning."

"Then you were following me?"

"Certainly I was following you. I saw you come out of Syke Ravenal's shop and I walked behind you, but only because your way and mine happened to be in the same direction."

She passed her hand over her eyes with a hopeless gesture. It seemed as though this endless day of terrors and surprises would never be done, and she was weary, weary. He sat regarding her with grave eyes. She looked like a little, tired, unhappy child, and his heart was sick with longing to gather her in his arms and comfort her and take her sorrows on himself. But he knew that there were things beyond his help here, unless she gave him her full confidence and cast her burdens into his hands.

"Rosanne," he said, at last, "I ask you

to trust me."

She looked at him with wretched eyes and a mouth tipped at the corners as though she would weep if she could. In truth, the enchantment of this man's love and her love for him was on her again, and the poignant torment of it was almost too exquisite to bear. His voice stole through her senses like the music of an old dream. His lean, strong frame, the stone-gray eyes, and close-lipped mouth all spoke of that power in a man which means safety to the woman he loves. Safety! Only such a storm-petrel as Rosanne Ozanne, weary, with wings beaten and torn by winds whose fateful forces she herself did not understand, could realize the full allure of that word. She felt like a sailor drowning in a wild sea, within sight of the fair land he never would reach. That fair land of safety was not for her feet, that had wandered down such dark and shameful paths. But, oh, how the birds sang on that sweet shore! How cool were the green pastures! Small wonder that her face wore the tortured misery of a little child. Denis Harlenden's heart turned to water at the sight of it, and the blood thrummed in his veins with the ache to crush her to his breast and keep her there against the world and against herself, spite of all the unfathomed things in her which estranged him. But he was strong enough to refrain from even touching her hands. Only his voice he could not stay from its caresses.



"Take me home, Denis," she whispered. He wrapped

stooped and picked the black, glittering

object from the floor.

A spasm contracted Harlenden's face, but he asked no question. Silently they went from the house and into the dark streets. There was no moon. At her gate, he stooped and kissed her lips.

Mrs. Ozanne got up the morning of the following day with the urgent feeling on her of something to be done. It seemed as if there were some move to be made that would help her and her children in their unhappiness, only she didn't know what the move was. But she always remembered, afterward, with what feverish urgency she dressed, putting on walking-things instead of a wrapper, and stepping from her room into the bustling atmosphere of the house with a determined indifference to the tasks and interests that usually occupied her attention.

Rosalie was as surprised to see her mother dressed for going out as was the mother to find her daughter at the breakfast-table.

"Why, Rosalie, my darling, this is an

unexpected joy!"

"Yes, mother; I thought I would make an effort."

It was the first time that the girl had been out of her room for over two weeks, and she looked frail as a snowdrop, and nearly as white.

"You can't have two daughters sick abed, you know," she added, with a wistful

mile.

"Is Rosanne still—" Mrs. Ozanne often left questions and remarks about her other daughter unfinished.

The latter had spent the whole of the previous day in her room, seeming phys-

ically unable to leave her bed.

"Yes; I'm afraid she's really ill. She just lies there, not speaking or eating, and she looks—oh, mother, she looks so unhappy!"

"I begged her yesterday to see the

doctor."

"She says no doctor can do her any good, and that we must just leave her alone. I fancy she's thinking out something that she's terribly worried about."

"There is something wrong," said the mother heavily. "Oh, Rosalie, if she were only like you, and would not hide her heart from those who love her!"

"We can't all be alike, mother darling! Rosanne has a stronger character for better or worse than I have. It is easy for me to throw my troubles on other people's shoulders, but she is capable of bearing in silence far greater sorrows, and of making far greater sacrifices."

"It is not a happy nature," sighed her mother. "I wonder if Kitty Drummund can do any good if I send for her."

"Better not, mother. She says she wants to see no one at present, and you know she was at Kitty's the night before last."

"I have asked her so often not to go out at night like that—even to Kitty's. I dare say she caught cold driving."

"Poor Rosanne! It is more than a cold

she has!"

Sophia Ozanne looked at her little, fair daughter with tender eyes, remembering the heartless way Rosanne had spoken of her sister's grief only two nights before.

"How different you are, my Rosalieforgetting your own sorrow to think of

others!"

The girl's eyes filled with tears, but she

did not shed them.

"I'm afraid it's only another form of selfishness, mummie dear. I want to be kind and loving to all the world, just so that God will be good to me and give Dick another chance."

"My poor, poor child!" The mother's arms were round her in a moment, ready for comfort, but Rosalie pushed her gently away, smiling with quivering lips.

"Don't pity me, mother. I'm determined to be brave, whatever comes. But tell me, where are you going, all prinked out in your walking-things?"

"I—I don't know yet, dear." Mrs. Ozanne looked startled and embarrassed. "I have various things to do."

"It's a frightful morning. Do you think

'you ought to go out?"

"I must," was the elder woman's firm answer, and she bustled away before there was time for further questioning. Not for anything did she mean to be deterred from the pressing desire in her to go out. Rosalie had been perfectly right about the weather. It was that arid time of year when the air swirls in gusts of hot whol laden with gritty blue sand from the débris-heaps, and the finer red dust of the streets.

Kimberley dust is notoriously the worst of its kind in a land plagued with dust. Buluwayo runs it pretty close, and Johannesburg, in the spring months, has special sand-devils of its own, but nothing in Africa has ever quite come up to Kimberley at its worst. This was not one of its worst, however; merely a day on which all who had wisdom sat at home within closed doors and sealed windows, awaiting a cessation of the penetrating abomination of filth.

Often, during the morning, Mrs. Ozanne found herself wondering what she was doing wandering about the town on such a day. Desultorily, and with an odd feeling that this was not what she should be about, she let herself be blown along the streets and in and out of shops, face bent down, eyes half closed, bumping blindly into people, her skirts swirling and flacking, her hat striving its utmost to escape and take the hair of her head with it. There were no necessary errands to do. The servants did the shopping, and she rarely went out except to drive in the afternoons. Vaguely she wondered why she had not used the carriage this morning.

Lunch-time came, but she could not bring herself to return home. It seemed to her that there was still something she must do, though she could not remember what.

In the end, she went into a clean, respectable little restaurant and lunched off a lamb chop and boiled potatoes, regardless of the excellent lunch that awaited her at home. Then, like a restless and unclean spirit, out she blew once more into the howling maelstrom of wind and dust.

She began to feel, at last, as if it were a nightmare, this necessity that urged her on, she knew not whither. Dimly, her eyes still blinded by dust, she was aware that she had left the main thoroughfares and was now in a poorer part of the town. With the gait of a sleep-walker, she continued on her way, until suddenly, a voice addressing her jerked her broad-awake.

"You come see me, missis?"

A woman had opened the door of a mean tin house and stood there waiting in the doorway, almost as if she had been expecting Sophia Ozanne. The latter stood stone-still, but her mind went racing back to a winter afternoon seventeen years before, when she had sat in her bedroom

with the little dying form of Rosanne upon her knees, and a voice speaking from the shadow of her bedroom had said, "Missis sell baby to me for a farthing; baby not die." The same voice addressed her now, and the same woman stood in the doorway of the mean house gazing at her with large, mournful eyes. It was Rachel Bangat, the Malay cook.

"You come see me die, missis?" she questioned, in her soft, languorous voice. "Die! Are you sick, Rachel?" said Mrs.

Ozanne.

"Yes, missis; Rachel very sick. Going die in three days."

Sophia Ozanne searched the dark, highboned face with horror-stricken eyes, but could see no sign of death on it, or any great change after seventeen years, except a more unearthly mournfulness in the mysterious eyes.

But she had often heard it said that Malays possess a prophetic knowledge of the hour and place of their death, and she could well credit Rachel Bangat with this strange faculty.

"How my baby getting along, missis?" Such yearning tenderness was in the question that Mrs. Ozanne, spite of a deep repugnance to discuss Rosanne with this woman, found herself answering,

"She is grown up now, Rachel."

"She very pretty?"

"Yes."

"And very rich?" "We are well-off."

"But she? I give her two good gifts that make her rich all by herself. She no use them?"

"What gifts were those, Rachel?" The mother drew nearer and peered with haggard eyes at the Malay.

"I tell you, missis. Because I love my baby so much and want her be very rich and happy, I give her two good things—the gift of bright stones and the gift of hate well."

Sophia Ozanne drew nearer still, staring like a fascinated rabbit into the mournfully sinister dark eyes, while the soft voice

rippled on.

She no use those gifts I give her? think so. I think she say, 'I hate that man,' and he die, sometimes quick, sometimes slow. Or she not hate too much, and he only get little sick. Or she wish him bad in his business, and he get bad. That

Sophia Ozanne thought of the black list she had kept for years of all the people whom Rosanne disliked and who had come to ill. In swift procession they passed through her mind, and Dick Gardner, with his anguished throat, walked at the end of the procession.

"Yes." Her dry lips ejected the word

in spite of her wish to be silent.

"Ah!" said the Malay, softly satisfied. "And the bright stones? She not get all she want without buy?"

This time, Mrs. Ozanne did not answer; only her blanched face grew a shade whiter. The woman leaned forward and spoke to

her earnestly, imploringly.

"You tell her get rich quick with the bright stones, before too late. Her power going soon. Rachel die in three days, and then gifts go away from Rachel's baby. No more power hate or get bright stones. Tell her quick, missis. I make you come here to-day so you can go back tell her. All night and all morning I stand here make you come to me. Now, go back quick, tell my baby. Three days! Eight o'clock on third night, Rachel die."

As strangely as she had appeared, the Malay withdrew into her wretched shanty

and closed the door.

Sophia Ozanne never knew by what means and in what manner she reached her home that day, but at about five o'clock she came into the hall of Tiptree House, and was met by her daughter Rosalie with the news that Rosanne had got up from her bed and left the house, taking a portmanteau with her.

"And, oh, mother, I could see that she was in a high fever, her cheeks were so flushed and her eyes like fire! What shall we do?"

Her mother sat down and wiped great beads of moisture from her pallid face.

"I think we will pray, Rosalie," she said slowly. "Come to my room, and let us pray for your unhappy sister.'

It was still broad afternoon when Rosanne walked openly into Syke Ravenal's shop, bag in hand. The benevolentfaced old man, occupied in cleaning the works of a watch, looked up with the bland, inquiring glance of a tradesman to a customer. But his face changed when he saw her eyes.

"You have news?" he asked, in a low

"Take me to the inner room," she ordered curtly. Without demur, he led the way. The moment the door closed on them she flung the heavy leather bag onto the table.

'Take them," she cried wildly; "take them back! They are all there. Not one is

missing.'

"Hush, my child-hush!" he gently urged. But she would not be hushed.

"I hate you," she said passionately. "I curse the day I entered this shop, an innocent girl, and was beguiled by you and your son and my mad passion for diamonds into becoming your tool and accomplice. Oh, how I hate you! I can never betray you because of my oath, but I curse you both, and I pray I may never see or hear of you again.

"That's all right, my child," he said soothingly. She threw him one glance of loathing and contempt and walked from

the place.

Rosanne had taken to her bed again, and this time when they brought the doctor she was too ill to object, too ill to do anything but lie staring in a sort of mental and physical coma at the ceiling above her.

"Let her be," said the old-fashioned family doctor, who had known her from babyhood. "She has a splendid constitution and will pull through. But let her have no worries of any kind."

So they left her alone, except in the matter of ministering occasional nourishment, which she took with the mechanical

obedience of a child.

For two days Rosanne lay there, silent and strange. The third day her sickness took an acute form. She tossed and moaned and called out in her pain, her face twisted with torture. Her mind appeared to remain clear.

"Mother, I believe I am dying," she said, after one such spell, during the afternoon. "I feel as if something is tearing itself loose from my very being. Does it hurt like this when the soul is trying to escape from the body?"

"I have sent for the doctor again, dar-

ling."

"It is nothing he can cure. It is here, and here that I suffer." She touched her head and her heart. "But, oh, my body, too,

She lay still a little while, moaning softly



BRAWN BY GEORGE GIBTS

He took her hand and held it safe, while, with all the strength in him, he willed peace and calmness into her troubled mind. "Denis, I think I am going to die." "Dearest, I know you are going to live—for me"

to herself while her mother stood by, sick with distress; then she said:

"Send for Denis Harlenden, mother. I

must see him before I die."

Mrs. Ozanne asked no question. Her woman's instinct told her much that Rosanne had left unsaid. Within half an hour, Harlenden was being shown into the drawing-room, where she awaited him. He came in with no sign upon his face of the anxiety in his heart. This was the fourth day since he had seen Rosanne, and she had sent him no word.

"Sir Denis, my daughter is very ill. I don't know why she should be calling out for you—" She faltered. Marks of the last few days' anxiety were writ large upon her, but she was not wanting in a certain

patient dignity.

Harlenden strode over and took her hands in his as he would have taken the

hands of his own mother.

"It is because we love each other," he said gently, "and because, as soon as she will let me, I am going to marry her."

A ray of thankfulness shone across her

features.

"Marriage! I don't know, Sir Denis; but, if you love her I can tell you something that will help you to understand her better, and perhaps you can help her."

Briefly, and in broken words, she related to him the strange incident of Rosanne's babyhood, its seeming effect upon her character, and the Malay's extraordinary words of two days before. She did not disguise from him that she believed Rosanne guilty, whether consciously or unconsciously, of many dark things, but she pleaded for her child the certainty that she had been in the clutches of forces stronger than herself.

"About the diamonds," she finished, at last, "I know nothing, and I am afraid to think. Did you read of that awful case of suicide in yesterday's paper—that man, Syke Ravenal, who has been robbing De Beers? I am tormented with the thought that she may have known something of

him-yet how could she?"

"You must put such a thought out of your mind forever and never mention it to a soul," said Harlenden firmly. "That man committed suicide because his only son had been killed by accident in Amsterdam. He left a vast fortune and a number of jewels which had been taken from their

settings to De Beers, by way of consciencemoney for several thousand pounds' worth of diamonds in the rough which he had stolen from them. There is absolutely no evidence to connect any other person with his crime, except a letter asking the company to deal lightly with a native boy called Hlangeli, who had been a tool of his."

"Then you think it could have nothing possibly to do with my poor child?"

"Certainly not," said Denis Harlenden, without flinching.

"Not that I think that she would have done it in her right senses, but, oh, Sir Denis, she has been under a spell all her life, an evil spell, which, please God, will be broken when that woman dies! You do not think me mad, I hope?"

"I do not," he answered gravely. "I am as sure of what you say as you yourself. What you do not know, Mrs. Ozanne, is that love has already broken that spell. Rosanne is already free from it."

She looked at him questioningly, long-

ingly

"I cannot tell you more," he said gently.
"But, believe me, it is true. May I go to her now?"

The mother led the way. Rosanne, who had just passed through another terrible crisis of anguish, lay on her bed, still and white as a lily. A crimson-silk wrapper swathed about her shoulders, and the clouds of night-black hair, flung in a tangled mass above her pillows, threw into violent contrast the deadly pallor of her face. Her eyes, dark and wide with suffering, looked unseeingly at Harlenden at first, but gradually a ray of recognition dawned in them and she put out her hand with a faint cry.

"Denis!"

He took her hand and held it safe, while, with all the strength in him, he willed peace and calmness into her troubled mind.

"Denis, I think I am going to die."
"Dearest, I know you are going to live—for me."

"No, no; I am not worthy of life—or of you. I have been too wicked!"

"I want you to rest now," he said.
"I cannot rest till I have told you everything. I wanted to tell you the other night, you know, but I was too exhausted. Denis, I am a criminal—a thief! I have stolen diamonds under cover of the friendship of another woman. I have received

them from another thief in the mines, and taken them to a man, whose son, a merchant in Amsterdam, sent me my share of the robbery in cut stones set as jewels. The rough stolen stones meant nothing to me, but the finished ones dazzled and maddened me. I cannot describe to you what they did to my senses, but I was mad at the sight and touch of them. They had power to benumb every decent feeling in me. For them, I forgot duty. My poor mother, how she has suffered! I betrayed friendship; I debased love! Yes, Denis, I debased our love! I meant just to take the joy of it for a little while, then cast it away when it came to choosing between you and the stones."

"But you did not."

"No, thank God, I could not! It was stronger than my base passion, stronger than myself. Oh, Denis, I thank you for your love! It has saved me from a hell in life, and a hell hereafter, for I think God will not further punish one so deeply repentant as I."

"You are not going to die, Rosanne,"

he repeated firmly.

"Do you think I would live and let you link your clean, upright life with my dark one?" she said sadly. "You do not even know all the darkness of it yet. Listen: I found I had a power through which I could hurt others by just wishing them illand I used it freely. Ah, I have hurt many people! It tortures me to think of how many. I have been lying here for two days and nights trying to undo all the harm I have done, Denis-willing against the evil I have wished for, praying for happiness to be given back to every one of them." Her voice grew faint and far-off. "I have even tried to undo the harm I wished would come to the two people who tempted me into stealing, Denis. But, somehow, I feel that it is too late for That something in here"-she touched her heart-"which hurts me so much, tells me I cannot help those two wretched ones."

Her voice broke off; she was shaken like a reed with a terrible spasm of suffering. It was as though she were in the clutches of some brutal giant. "Denis," she cried faintly, "I feel I am being rent asunder! Part of me is being torn away. Surely, even death cannot be so terrible!"

A clock on the table struck eight. Instantly she raised herself in bed, fell back again, gave a deep sigh, and lay still.

A few hours later, she woke with a gentle flush in her cheeks and a wonderful harmony in all her features. Her first glance fell upon her mother leaning over the foot of the bed, and she gave a happy smile.

"Oh, mother, I have had such a lovely dream! I dreamed Dick was well and com-

ing back soon to Rosalie."

"And so he is, my darling. She has had a wire to say that Doctor Raymond has discovered that the throat trouble is not malignant but quite curable. He will be well in a few weeks."

"Then it may come true, my dream," she said softly and shyly. "My dream that she and I were being married on the same day, she to Dick, and I to—oh, Denis, how strange that you should be here when I was dreaming of you! What brought you here? Have you come to tell mother that we love each other?"

They began to realize dimly then, as they realized fully later on, that, by a merciful gift of Providence, her mind was a blank concerning all the dark things of

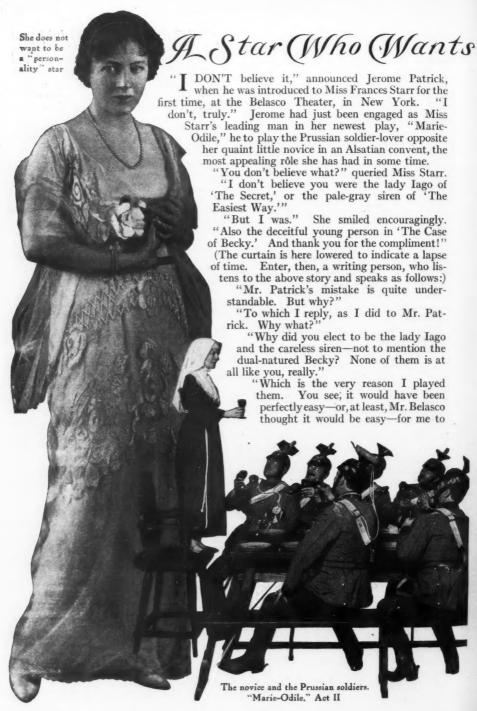
the past.

Memory of them had died with the dying of the Malay woman at eight o'clock on a summer evening, and no shadow of them ever came back to dim the harmony of her life with Denis Harlenden.

She is one of the happiest as well as one of the loveliest women in London to-day. Wrapped up in her home life and children, she still finds time to be seen about everywhere with her husband, and they are looked upon as one of the few ideally happy couples in society.

And it has often been remarked, as a curious fact, that she never wears jewels of any kind, save a large emerald

ring, and some exquisite pearls.









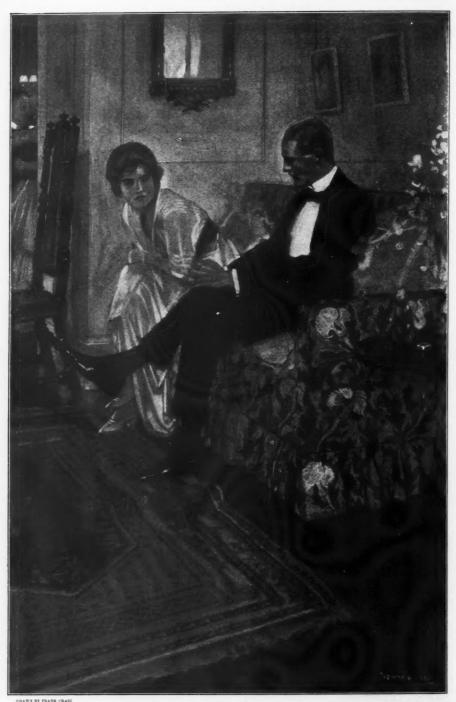
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"He is a good comrade. No man can say more than that, Miss Greensleeve"

682

Athalie

THE ROMANCE OF A GIRL WITH A STRANGE POWER

By Robert W. Chambers

Author of "The Common Law," "The Streets of Ascalon," "The Business of Life," etc.

Illustrated by Frank Craig

Synopsis—Athalie is the youngest of the four children of Peter Greensleeve, an impractical man who had failed as a school-teacher, failed as a farmer, and has finally been reduced to keeping a road-house on the south shore of Long Island. As a child, she is recognized by her family and companions as being "different." and her strangeness is due to the fact that she is possessed of very pronounced clairvoyant power. When she is about twelve, her mother dies, and her broken father survives his wife but a few months. On the day of his sudden death, just before Chrisms, there is staying at the Hotel Greensleeve a party of duck-hunters, among whom is a boy, Clive Bailey, Junior, the son of a wealthy and socially prominent New York family. Clive evinces a tender interest in Athalie, and is most sympathetic over her loss. When leaving, he fastens a strap-watch upon her wrist and says that he will return the following summer. But he does not come. Several years later, they meet accidentally in New York. Athalie is now a stenographer in a department store, and Clive is at Harvard. The girl is still wearing the old wrist-watch. Clive promises a new one and says that he will go to see her. He does not do this, but sends the watch and an apologetic letter at Christmas. Both are returned through the dead-letter office. Four years pass. The Greensleeve sisters are living in a cheap apartment. Doris is a chorus girl and Catharine is employed in a millinerry and dressmaking establishment. Athalie, very pretty and attractive, has managed, by careful self-culture, to place herself upon a plane of refinement far above that of her sisters. One evening, while alone, she is astounded at the appearance of young Bailey. He has found her name among the tenants of his father's real-estate company, and has come with a beautiful wrist-watch. This visit lays the foundation of a very sincere and perfectly innocent friendship between the two young people, which, his spite of parental opposition, Clive refuses to renounce.

He furnishes an ap

HERE was a slight fragrance of tobacco in the room, mingling with the fresh, springlike scent of lilacs-great pale clusters of them decorated mantel and table and the desk where Athalie sat writing to Captain Dane in the semidusk of a May evening.

Here and there, dim figures loomed in the big square room; the graceful shape of a young girl at the piano detached itself from the gloom; a man or two dawdled by the window, vaguely silhouetted against the lilac-tinted sky. Athalie wrote on.

I had not supposed you had landed until Cecil Reeve told me this evening. If you are not too tired

to come, please do so. Do you realize that you have been away over a year? Do you realize that I am now twenty-four years old and that I am growing older every minute? You had better hasten, then, because very soon I shall be too old to believe your magic fairy-tales of field and flood, and all your wonder-lore of travel in those distant golden lands I dream of.

Who was your white companion? Cecil tells me that you said you had one. Bring him with you this evening; you'll need corroboration, I fear. And most I desire to know if you are well, and next I wish to hear whether you did really find the lost city of Yhdunez.

A maid came to take the note to Dane's hotel, the Great Eastern, and Cecil Reeve looked up and laid aside his cigarette.

"Come on, Athalie," he said; "tell

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Peg to turn on one of those Peruvian dances."

Peggy Brooks, at the piano, struck a soft, sensuous chord or two, but Francis Hargrave would not have it, and he pulled out the proper phonographic record and cranked the machine while Cecil rolled up the Beluch rugs.

The somewhat muffled air that exuded from the machine was the lovely miraflores, gay, lively, languorous, sad, by turns—and much danced at the moment in New York.

A new spring moor looked into the room, where, like elegant and graceful phantoms, the dancers moved, swayed, glided, swung back again with sinuous grace into the suavely delicate courtship of the dance. The slender feet and swaying figure of Athalie seemed presently to bewitch the other couple, for they drew aside and stood together, watching that exquisite incarnation of youth itself, gliding, bending, floating in the lilac-scented, lilac-tinted dusk under the young moon.

The machine ran down in the course of time, and Hargrave went over to rewind it; but Peggy Brooks waved him aside and seated herself at the piano, saying she had enough of Hargrave.

She was still playing the quaint, sweet dance called "The Orchid," and Hargrave was leaning on the piano beside her, watching Cecil and Athalie drifting through the dusk to the music's rhythm, when the door opened and somebody came in.

Athalie, in Cecil's arms, turned her head, looking back over her shoulder. Dane loomed tall in the twilight.

"Oh," she exclaimed, "I am so glad!"
She slipped out of Cecil's arms and wheeled on Dane, both hands outstretched. The others came up also, with quick, gay greetings, and, after a moment or two of general and animated chatter, Athalie drew Dane into a corner and made room for him beside her on the sofa. Peggy had turned on the music-machine again and, snubbing Hargrave, was already beginning the miraflores with Cecil Reeve. Athalie said:

"Are you well? That's the first question."

He said he was well.

"And did you find your lost city?"

He said quietly, "We found Yhdunez."

"We?"

"I and my white companion."

"Why didn't you bring him with you this evening?" she asked. "Did you tell him that I invited him?"

"Yes."

"Oh, couldn't he come?" And, as he made no answer, "Couldn't he?" she repeated. "Who is he, anyway?"

"Clive Bailey."

She sat motionless, looking at him, the question still parting her lips. Dully in her ears the music sounded. The pallor which had stricken her face faded, grew again, then waned in the faint return of color.

Dane, who was looking away from her rather fixedly, spoke first, still not looking

at her

"Yes," he said, in even, agreeable tones; "Clive was my white companion. I gave him your note to read. He did not seem to think that he ought to come."

"Why?" Her lips scarcely formed the

word.

"As long as you were not aware of whom you were inviting. There had been some misunderstanding between you and him—or so I gathered from his attitude."

A few moments more of silence; then

she was fairly prepared.

"Is he well?" she asked coolly.

"Yes. He had one of those nameless fevers down there. He's coming out of it all right."

"Is he—his appearance—changed?"
"He's changed a lot, judging from the photographs he showed me taken three or four years ago. He's changed in other ways, too, I fancy."

"How?"

"Oh, I only surmise it! One hears about people—and their characteristics. Clive is a good deal of a man. I never had a better companion. There were hardships—tight corners—we had a bad time of it for a while, along the Andes. And the natives are treacherous—every one of them. He is a good comrade. No man can say more than that, Miss Greensleeve. That includes about everything I ever heard of—when a man proves to be a good comrade. And there is no place on earth where a man can be so thoroughly tried out as in that sunless wilderness."

"Yes. I believe he's going back on

Saturday."

She looked up sharply.

"Back? Where?"

"Oh, not to Peru! Only to England," said Dane, forcing a laugh.

After a moment she said:

"And he wouldn't come. It is only three blocks, isn't it?"

"It wasn't the distance, of course."

"No; I remember. He thought I might not have cared to see him."

"That was it."

Another silence; then, in a lower voice, which sounded a little hard,

"His wife is living in England, I suppose."

"She is living-I don't know where."

"Have they-children?"

"I believe not."

She remained silent for a while, then, coolly enough,

"I suppose he is sailing on Saturday to see his wife."

"I think not," said Dane gravely.
"You say he is sailing for England."

"Yes; but I imagine it's because he has nowhere else to go."

"Why doesn't he stay here?"

"I don't know."

"He is American. His friends live here. Why doesn't he remain here?"

Dane shook his head.

"He's a restless man, Miss Greensleeve. That kind of man can't stay anywhere. He's got to go on—somewhere."

"I see."

There came a pause; then they talked of other things for a while, until other people began to drop in—Arthur Ensart, Anne Randolph, and young Welter—"Helter Skelter" Welter, always, metaphorically speaking—redolent of saddle-leather and reeking of sport. His theme happened to be his own wonderful trap-record, that evening; and the fat, good-humored, ardent young man prattled on about "unknown angles" and "incomers," until Dane, who had been hunting jaguars and cannibals along the unknown Andes, concealed his yawns with difficulty.

Ensart insisted on turning on the lights and starting the machine; and presently Anne Randolph and Peggy were dancing the miraflores with Cecil and Ensart.

Welter had cornered Hargrave and Dane and was telling them all about it, and Athalie went slowly through the passageway and into her own bedroom, where she stood quite motionless for a while, looking at the floor. Hafiz, dozing on the bed, awoke, gazed at his mistress gravely, yawned, and went to sleep again. Presently she dropped into a chair by her little ivory-tinted Louis XVI desk. There was a telephone there and a telephone directory.

When she had decided to open the latter and had found the number she wanted, she unhooked the receiver and called for it.

After a few minutes somebody said that he was not in his room, but that he was being paged. She waited, dully attentive to the far noises which sounded over the wire; then came a voice.

"Yes; who is it?"

She said,

"I wish to speak to Mr. Bailey-Mr. Clive Bailey."

"I am Mr. Bailey."

For a moment, the fact that she had not recognized his voice seemed to strike her speechless. And it was only when he spoke again, inquiringly, that she said, in a low voice.

"Clive!"

"Yes-is-is it you!"

"Yes."

And in the next heavily pulsating moment her breath came back with her selfcontrol.

"Why didn't you come, Clive?"
"I didn't imagine you wanted me."

"I asked Captain Dane to invite you."
"Did you know who you were inviting?"
"No; but I do now. Will you come?"

"Yes. When?"

"When you like. Come now, if you like—unless you are engaged——"

"No."

"What were you doing when I called

"Nothing-walking about the lobby."

"Did you find it interesting?"

She heard him laugh—such a curious, strange, shaken laugh. She said:

"I shall be very glad to see you, Clive. There are some of your friends here, too, who will be glad to see you."

"Then I'll wait until--'

"No; I had rather meet you for the first time when others are here—if you don't mind. Do you?"

"No," he said coolly; "I'll come."

"Now?"

"Yes; immediately."

Her heart was going at a terrific pace when she hung up the receiver. She went to her mirror, turned on the side lights and looked at herself. From the front room came the sound of the dance-music, a ripple or two of laughter, and Welter's eager voice singing still of arms and the man.

Long she stood there, motionless, studying herself, so that, when the moment came that was coming now so swiftly upon her, she might know what she appeared like in his every

his eyes.

All, so far, was sheer, fresh youth with her; her eyes had not lost their dewy beauty; the splendor of her hair remained unchanged. There were no lines, nothing lost, nothing hardened in contour. Clear and smooth her snowy chin; perfect, so far, the lovely throat; nothing of blemish was visible, no souvenirs of grief, of pain.

And, as she looked, and all the time she was looking, she felt subtly that the ordered routine of her thoughts was changing, that a transformation was beginning somewhere deep within her—a new character emerging—a personality unfamiliar, disturbing, as though not entirely to be de-

pended on.

And, in the mirror, she saw her lips, scarcely parted, more vivid than she had ever seen them, and her eyes two wells of azure splendor; saw the smooth, young bosom rise and fall; felt her heart, rapid, imperious, beating the "colors" into her cheeks.

Suddenly, as she stood there, she heard him come in, heard the astonished and joyous exclamations—Cecil's bantering, cynical voice, Welter's loud welcome. She pressed both hands to her hot cheeks, stared at herself a moment, then turned and walked in a leisurely manner toward the living-room.

In her heart a voice was crying, crying: "Let the world see so that there may be no mistake! This man who was friendless is my friend. Let there be no mistake that he is more or less than that!" But she only said, with a quick smile, and offering her

hand:

"I am so glad to see you, Clive. I am so glad you came." And stood, still smiling, looking into the lean, sun-tanned face, under the concentrated eyes of her friends.

For a second it was difficult for him to speak; but only she saw the slight quiver

of the mouth.

"You are—quite the same," he said, "no more beautiful, no less. Time is not the essence of your contract with Venus." "Oh, Clive! And I am twenty-four! Tell me—are you a trifle gray—just above the temples—or is it the light?"

"He's gray," said Cecil; "don't flatter him, Athalie. And O Lord, what a thin-

ness!"

Peggy Brooks, professionally curious, said naively:

"Are you still rather full of bacilli, Mr. Bailey? And would you mind if I took a drop of blood from you some day?"

"Not at all," said Clive, laughing away the strain that still fettered his speech a little. "You may have quarts, if you like, Doctor Brooks."

"How was the shooting?" inquired Welter, bustling up like a judge at a bench show when the awards are applauded.

"Oh—there was shooting—of course," said Clive, with an involuntary and half-humorous glance at Captain Dane.

"Good nigger hunting," nodded Dane.
"Unknown angles, Welter. You ought to run down there."

"Any incomparable Indian maidens wearing nothing but ornaments of gold?" inquired Cecil.

"That is partly true," said Clive, laugh-

ing.
"If you put a period after 'nothing,' I suppose," suggested Peggy.

"About that."

He turned to Athalie; but her silent, smiling gaze confused him so that he forgot what he had meant to say, and stood without a word amid the chatter that rose and ebbed about him.

Anne Randolph and Arthur Ensart had joined hands, their restless feet sketching the first steps of the miraflores; and presently somebody cranked the machine.

ently somebody cranked the machine.
"Come on!" said Peggy imperiously to
Dane. "You've been too long in the jungle

dancing with Indian maidens."

Other people dropped in—Adèle Millis, young Grismer, John Lyndhurst, Jeanne Delauny. When Clive saw Rosalie Faithorn saunter in with James Allys, he stared; but that young seceder from his own set greeted him without embarrassment and lighted a cigarette.

"Where 's Winifred?" she asked nonchalantly. "Still on the outs? Yes? Why not shuffle and draw again? Winifred was

always a pig."

Clive flushed at the girl's frankness, although he could have expected nothing



His theme happened to be his own wonderful trap-record, and Dane, who had been hunting jaguars and cannibals slong the unknown Andes, concealed his yawns with difficulty

less from her. Rosalie continued to smoke and to inspect him critically.

"You're a bit seedy and a bit weedy, Clive; but you'll come around with feeding. You're really all right. I'd have you myself, if I were marrying young men these

"That's nice of you, Rosalie. But I'm full of rare bacilli."

"The rarer the better-if you must have them. Give me the unusual, whether it's a disease or a gown. I believe I will take you, Clive-if you are not expected to live long."

"That's the trouble. Nothing seems to

be able to get me."

Dane said, as he passed with Peggy:

"He's immune, Miss Faithorn. prettiest woman I ever saw, he sidestepped And, even then, every man wanted to shoot him up because she made eyes at him."

"I think I'll go there," said Cecil. "Her name and quality if you please, Dane."

"Ask Clive," he called back. Athalie, still smiling, said, "Shall I ask you, Clive?"

"Don't ask that South American adventurer anything," interrupted Cecil, "but come and dance this miraflores with me, Athalie."

"No; I don't wish to."

"Come on; you must!" "Oh, Cecil-please-

But he had his way; and, as usual, everybody watched her while the charming music lasted—Clive among the others, standing a little apart, lean, erect, his dark gaze fixed.

She came back to him after the dance, delicately flushed and a trifle breathless.

"Do you dance that in England?" she

"It's danced-not at court functions, I believe.

"You never did care to dance, did you?" "No"-he shrugged-"I used to mess

about some.' "What do you do to amuse yourself in

these days?'

"Nothing-much!" "You must do something, Clive!"

"Oh, yes; I travel-go about."

"Is that all?"

"That's about all."

She had stepped aside to let the dancers pass; he moved with her.

She said in a low, even voice,

"Is it pleasant to be back, Clive?"

He nodded in silence.

"Nothing has changed very much since you went away. There's a new administration at the city hall, a number of new sky-scrapers in town; people danced the tango day before yesterday, the maxixe yesterday, the miraflores to-day, the orchid to-morrow. That's about all, Clive."

And, as he merely acquiesced in silence, she glanced up sideways at him, and remained watching this new, sun-browned, lean-visaged version of the boy she had first known, and the boyish man who had gone out of her life four years before.

"Would you like to see Hafiz?" she

asked.

He turned quickly toward her.

"Yes," he said, the ghost of a smile lining the corners of his eyes.

"He's on my bed asleep.

Slipping along the edges of the dancingfloor and stepping daintily over the rolled rugs, she led the way through the passage to her rose-and-ivory bedroom, Clive fol-

Hafiz opened his eyes and looked across at them from the pillow, stood up, his back rounding into a furry arch, yawned, stretched first one hind leg and then the other, and finally stood flexing his fore paws and uttering soft little mews of recognition and greeting.

"I wonder," she said smilingly, "if you have any idea how much Hafiz has meant

to me?'

He made no reply; but his face grew somber and he laid a lean, muscular hand

on the cat's head.

Neither spoke again for a little while. Finally, his hand fell from the appreciative head of Hafiz, dropping inert by his side, and he stood looking at the floor. Then there was the slightest touch on his arm and he turned to go; but she did not move, and they confronted each other, alone and after many years. Suddenly she stretched out both hands, looking him full in the eyes, her own brilliant with tears.

"I've got you back, haven't I?" she said unsteadily. But he could not speak, and stood savagely controlling his quiver-

ing lip with his teeth.

"I just want you as I had you, Clivemy first boy friend-who turned aside from the bright highway of life to speak to a ragged child. I have had the boy; I have

had the youth; I want the man, Clivehonestly, in perfect innocence. Would you care what might be said of us-as long as we know our friendship is blameless? I am not taking you from her, am I? I am not taking anything away from her, am I? I have not always played squarely with men. I don't think it is possible. They have hoped for—various eventualities. I have not encouraged them; I have merely let them hope—which is not square. But I wish always to play square with women. Unless a woman does, nobody will. And that is why I ask you, Clive-am I robbing her-if you come back to me-as you were nothing more-nothing less, Clive, but just exactly as you were?"

It was impossible for him to control his voice or his words or even his thoughts just yet. He stood with his lean head turned partly from her, motionless as a rock in the desperate grip of self-mastery, crushing the slender hands that alternately yielded and

clasped his own.

"Oh. Clive," she said, "Clive! You don't know-vou never can know what loneliness means to such a woman as I am. I thought once-many times-that I could never again speak to you—that I never again could care to hear about you. But I was wrong, pitifully wrong. It was not jealousy of her, Clive; you know that, don't you? There had never been any question of such sentiment between you and meexcepting once—one night—that last night when you said good-by-and you were very much overwrought. So it was not jealousy. It was loneliness. I wanted you, even if you had fallen in love. That sort of love had nothing to do with us. There was nothing in it that ought to have come between you and me? Besides, if such an ephemeral thought ever drifted through my idle mind, I knew, on reflection, that you and I could never be destined to marry, even if such sentiment ever inclined us. I knew it and accepted it without troubling to analyze the reasons. I had no desire to invade your world—less desire now that I have penetrated it professionally and know a little about it. It was not jealousy, Clive."

He swung around, bent swiftly, and pressed his lips to her hands. And she abandoned them to him, with all her heart and soul, in an overwhelming passion of purest emotion.

"I couldn't stand it, Clive," she said, "when I heard you were at your hotel alone. And all the unhappiness I had heard ofyour married life-I-I couldn't stand it; I couldn't let you remain there all alone! And when you came here to-night, and I saw in your face how these four years had altered you-how it had been with you-I wanted you back-to let you know I am sorry-to let you know I care for the man who has known unhappiness as I cared for the boy who had known only happiness. Do you understand, Clive? Do you, dear? Don't you see what I see—a man standing all alone by a closed door behind which his hopes lie dead? Clive, that is where you came to me, offering sympathy and friendship. That is where I come to you in my turn, offering whatever you care to take of me-if there is in me anything that may comfort you."

He bent and laid his lips to her hands again, remaining so, curbed before her; and she looked down at his lean and powerful head and shoulders, and saw the hint of gray edging the crisp, dark hair, and the dark stain of tropic suns that never could

be effaced

So far, no passion, other than innocent, had she ever known for any man—nothing of less emotion, nothing physical. And, had she thought of it all, she must have believed that it was that way with her still. For no thought concerning it disturbed her tender, tremulous happiness with this man beside her, who still held her hand imprisoned against his breast.

And presently they were seated on the couch at the foot of her bed, excited, garrulous, exchanging gossip, confidences, ideas long unuttered, desires long unexpressed.

Under the sweeping flashlight of her intelligence, the four years of his absence were illuminated and passed swiftly in review for his inspection. Of loneliness, perplexity, grief, deprivation, she made light laughingly, shrugging her smooth young shoulders.

"All that was yesterday," she said. "There is only to-day, now—until to-morrow becomes to-day. You won't go away, will you, Clive?"

"No."

"There is no need of your going, is there—no reason for you to go—no duty—moral obligation—is there, Clive?"

"None."

"You wouldn't say so just because I wish you to, would you?"

"I wouldn't be here at all if there were

any reason for me to be-there."

"Then I am not robbing her of you? I am not depriving her of the tiniest atom of anything that you owe to her? Am I, Clive?"

"I can't see how. There is only one thing I can do for my wife, and that is to keep

away from her."

"Oh, Clive! How desperately sad! And she is young and beautiful, isn't she? Oh, I am so sorry for you—for you both! Don't you see, dear, that I am not jealous? If you could be happy with her, and if she could understand me and let me be your friend, that would be wonderful, Clive!"

He remained silent, thinking of Winifred and of her quality of "understanding," and of the miserable matter of business which had made her his wife, and of his own complacent and smug indifference, and his contemptible weakness under pressure.

Always in the still and secret depths of him he had remained conscious that he had never cared for any woman except Athalie. All else had been but a vague realization of axioms and theorems, of premises that had rusted into his mind, of facts which he accepted as self-evident—such as the immutable fact that he couldn't marry Athalie, couldn't mortify his family, couldn't defy his friends, couldn't affront his circle with impunity. To invite disaster would be to bring an avalanche upon himself which, if it wounded, isolated, even marooned him, would certainly bury Athalie out of sight forever.

His parents had so reasoned with him; his mother continued the inculcation after his father's death. And then Winifred and her mother came floating into his cosmic

ken like two familiar planets.

For a while, far away in interstellar space, Athalie glimmered like a fading comet. Then orbits narrowed; adhesion and cohesion followed collision; the bimaternal pressure never lessened. And he gave up. Of this he was thinking now, as he sat there in her rose-and-ivory room, gazing at the graysilk carpet underfoot, and all the while exquisitely, vitally conscious of Athalie—of her nearness to him—to tears at moments—to that happiness akin to tears.

"Clive, do you remember?" And she breathlessly recalled some gay and long-

forgotten incident of that never-to-be-forgotten winter together when the theaters and restaurants knew them so well, and the day-world and night-world both credited them with being to each other everything that they had never been.

"Where will you live?" she asked.

He said:

"You know I have sold our old house. I don't know." He looked at her gravely and ashamed. "I think I will take your old apartment."

She blushed to her hair.

"Were you annoyed with me because I left it?"

"It hurt."

"But, Clive, I couldn't remain—after you had become engaged to marry."

"Did you need to leave everything you.

"They were not mine," she said, in a low, embarrassed voice.

"Whose, then?"

"Yours. I never considered them mine—as though I were a girl of little consideration, who paid herself philosophically for what she had lost, like a man's mistress after the inevitable break has come—"

"Don't say that!"

She shrugged her pretty shoulders.

"I am a woman old enough to know what the world is, and what women do in it sometimes, and what men do. And I am this sort of woman, Clive: I can give; I can receive, too, but only because of the happiness it bestows on the giver. And when the sympathy which must exist between giver and receiver ends, then, also, possession ends—for me. Why do you look at me so seriously?"

But he dared not say. And presently she

went on, happily and at random.

"Of course I kept Hafiz and the first thing you ever gave me—the gun-metal wrist-watch. Here it is"—leaning across him and pulling out a drawer in her dresser —"I wear it every day when I am out. It keeps excellent time. Isn't it a darling, Clive?"

He examined it in silence, nodded, and returned it to her. And she laid it away

again, saying:

"So you think of taking my old apartment? How odd! And how very sentimental of you, Clive!"

He said, forcing a light tone:

"Nothing has ever been disturbed there.

It's all as it was when you left. Even your gowns are hanging in the closets."

"Clive!"

"We'll go around, if you like. Would you care to see it again?'

"Y-yes."

"Then we'll go together, and you can investigate closets and bureaus and dressers."

"Clive! Why did you let those things

remain?"

"I didn't care to have anybody else take that place.'

"Do you know that what you have done is absurdly and frightfully sentimental?"

"Is it?" he said, trying to laugh. "Well, that sniveling and false sort of sentiment is about the best that such men as I know how to comfort themselves with—when it's too late for the real thing." What do you mean?"

"Just what I am saying. Cheap minds are fed with false sentiment and are comforted. I made out of that place a smug little monument to you-while you were living alone and almost penniless in a shabby rooming-house on-

"Oh, Clive! You didn't know that! And, anyway, it would not have altered

things for me.

"I suppose not. Well, Athalie, you are very wonderful to me-merciful, forgiving, nobly blind. God," he muttered, under his breath, "I don't understand how you can be so generous and gentle with me-I don't, indeed!"

"If you only knew how easy it is to care for you," she said, with that sweet fearless-

ness so characteristic of her.

He bit his lips in silence. Presently she said:

"I suppose there'll be gossip in the other room. Rosalie and Cecil will be cynical, and they also will try to be witty at our expense. But I don't care. Do you?"

"Shall we go in?"

"No; I haven't had you for four years. If you don't care what is said about us, I don't." And she looked up at him with the most engaging candor.

"I'm only thinking about you, Athalie." "Don't bother to, Clive. Pretty nearly everything has been said about me, I fancy. And, unless it might damage you, I'll go anywhere with you, do anything with you. I know that I'm all right; and I care no longer what others say or think."

"But you know," he said, "that is a theory which will not work.'

"You are wrong, Clive. Nobody cares what sort of a character a popular actress may have. Her friends are not disturbed by her reputation; the public crowds to see her. And it's about that way with me, I imagine—because I don't suppose many people believe me to be respectable. Only -there is no man alive who can say of his own knowledge that I am not-whatever he and his brothers and sisters may imagine. So why should I care—as long as the public affords me an honest living? I know what I am and have been. And the knowledge, so far, does not keep me awake at night."

She laughed—the sweet, fresh, unembarrassed laugh of innocence-not that ignorance and stupidity which is called innocence, but innocence based on a worldly wisdom which neither her intelligence nor her experience permitted her to escape.

After a short silence he bent forward and laid one hand on a crystal which stood clasped by a tiny silver tripod on the table

beside her bed.

"So you did develop your-qualities-

after all, Athalie?"

"Yes. It happened accidentally." And she told him about the old gentleman who had come to her rooms when she stood absolutely penniless and at bay before the world. After she had ended he asked her whether she had ever again seen his father. She told him. She told him, also, about seeing his mother.

"Have they anything to say to me, Athalie?" he asked wistfully.

"I don't know, Clive. Some day-when you feel like it-if you will come to me-" "Thank you, dear. You are wonderful

-wonderfully good-

"Oh, Clive, I'm not! I'm careless, pleasure loving, inclined to laziness-and even to dissipation."

"You!"

"Within certain limits," she added demurely. "I dance a lot; I know I smoke too much and drink too much champagne. I'm no angel, Clive. I won altogether too much at auction last night-ask Jim Allys. And really, if I didn't have a mind and feel a desire to cultivate it, I'd be the limit, I suppose." She laughed and tossed her chin, and the pure loveliness of her childlike throat was suddenly and exquisitely revealed.

"I'm too intelligent to go wrong, I suppose," she said. "I adore cultivating my mental faculties even more than I like to misbehave." She added, a trifle shyly: "I speak French and Italian and German very nicely. And I sing a little and play acceptably. Please compliment me, Clive."

But her quick smile died out as she looked into his eyes—eyes haunted by the vision of all that he had denied his manhood and this girl's young womanhood—all that he had lost, irretrievably and forever, on that day he married another woman.

"What is the matter, Clive?" she asked, with sweet concern.

He answered,

"Nothing, I guess—except—that you are very—wonderful—to me."

XX

A May afternoon was drawing to a close; the last appointment had been made for the morrow, and the last client for the day still lingered with Athalie where she sat with her head propped thoughtfully on one slim hand, her gaze concentrated on the depths of the crystal sphere. After a long silence, she said:

"You need not be anxious. Her wireless apparatus is out of order. They are repairing it. It was a bad storm."

"Is there any ice near her?"

"I can see none."
"Any ships?"

"One of her own line, hull down. They have been exchanging signals. There seems to be no necessity for her to stand by. The worst is over. Yes; the Empress of Borneo proceeds. The Empress of Formosa will be reported this evening. You need not be anxious. She'll dock on Monday."

"Are you sure?" said the man, as Athalie lifted her eyes from the crystal and smiled reassuringly at him. He was a stocky, red-faced, trim, middle-aged man; but his sanguine visage bore the haggard imprint of sleepless nights, and the edges of his teeth had bitten his underlip raw.

Athalie glanced carelessly at the crystal. "Yes," she said patiently; "I am sure of it, Mr. Clements. The Empress of Formosa will dock on Monday—about—nine in the morning. She will be reported by wireless from the Empress of Borneo this evening. They are relaying it now from the Delaware capes. There will be an extra

edition of the evening papers. You may dismiss all anxiety."

The man rose, stood a moment, his features working with emotion.

"I'm not a praying man," he said. "But if this is so—I'll pray for you. It can't hurt you anyway—" He checked himself, stammering, and the deep color stained him from his brow to his thick, powerful neck as he stood fumbling with his portfolio. But Athalie smilingly put aside the recompense he offered.

"It is too much, Mr. Clements."

"It is worth it to the company—if the news is true."

"Then wait until your steamer docks."
"But you say you are certain."

"Yes, I am; but you are not. My refusal of payment will encourage you to confidence in me. You have been ill with anxiety, Mr. Clements. I know what that means. And now your bruised mind cannot realize that the trouble is ended—that there is no reason now for the deadly fear that has racked you. But everything will help you now—what I have told you, and my refusal of payment—until your own eyes corroborate everything I have said."

"I believe you now," he said, staring at her. "I wish to offer you in behalf of the company—"

A swift gesture conjured him to silence. She rose, listening intently. Presently, his ears, too, caught the faint sound, and he turned and walked swiftly and silently to the open window.

"There is your extra," she said pleasantly. "The Empress of Formosa has been reported."

She was still lying on the couch beside the crystal, idly watching what scenes were drifting, mistlike, through its depths—scenes vague and faded in color and of indefinite outline; for, like the monotone of a half-heard conversation which did not concern the listener, these passing phantoms concerned not her. Under her indifferent eyes they moved; pale-tinted scenes grew, waxed, and waned, and a ghostly processional flowed through them without end under her dark-blue, dreaming eyes.

She had turned and dropped her head back upon the silken pillows, when his signal sounded in telegraphic sequence on the tiny concealed bell.

The still air of the room was yet



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"There is your extra," she said pleasantly. "The Empress of F. rmosa has been reported"

tremulous with the silvery vibration when Clive entered, looked around, caught sight of her, and came swiftly toward her.

She looked up at him in her sweet, idly humorous way, unstirring.

"This is becoming a habit with you, Clive."

"Didn't you care to see me this afternoon?" he asked so seriously that the girl laughed outright and stretched out one hand to him.

"Clive, you're becoming ponderous! Do you know it? Suppose I didn't care to see you this particular afternoon. Is there any reason why you should take it so seriously?"

"Plenty of reasons," he said, saluting her smooth, cool hand, "with all these people at your heels every minute."

"Please don't pretend—"

"I'm not jealous. But all these men— Cecil and Jimmy Allys—they're beginning to be a trifle annoying to me."

She laughed in unfeigned and malicious

delight.

"They don't annoy me! No girl was annoyed by overattention from her suitors except Penelope—and I don't believe she had such a horrid time of it, either, until her husband came home and shot up the whole thé dansant."

He was still standing beside her couch without offering to seat himself; and she let him remain standing a few minutes longer before she condescended to move aside on her pillows and nod a tardy invitation.

"Has it been an interesting day, Clive?"

"Rather."

"And you have really gone back into business again?"

"Yes."

"And will the real-estate market rally at the news of your august reappearance?" she inquired mischievously.

"I haven't a doubt of it," he said, with

gravity.

"Wonderful, Clive! And I think I'd better get in on the ground floor before values go sky-rocketing. Do you want a commission from me?"

"Of course."

"Very well—buy me the old Hotel Greensleeve." He smiled; but she said, with pretty seriousness: "I really have been thinking about it. Do you suppose it could be bought reasonably? It's really a pretty place. And there's a hundred acres—or there was. I would like to have a modest house somewhere in the country."

"Are you in earnest; Athalie?"

"Really I am. Couldn't that old house be fixed over inexpensively? You know it's nearly two hundred years old, and the lines are good if the gingerbread verandas and modern bay windows are done away with."

He nodded; and she went on with shy

enthusiasm:

"I don't really know anything about gardens, except I know that I should adore them. I thought of a garden—just a simple one. And some cows and chickens. And one nice old horse. It is really very pretty there in spring and summer. And the bay is so blue and the salt meadows are so sweet. And the cemetery is near. I should not wish to alter mother's room very much. I'd turn the bar into a sun-parlor. But I'd keep the stove—where you and I sat that evening and ate peach turnovers. About how much do you suppose the place could be bought for?"

"I haven't the least idea, Athalie; but I'll see what can be done to-morrow. It ought to be a good purchase. You can scarcely go wrong on Long Island property

if you buy it right."

"Will you see about it, Clive?"

"Of course I will, you dear girl!" he said, dropping his hand over hers where it lay between them.

She smiled up at him, then, distrait, turned her blue eyes toward the window and remained gazing out at the late-afternoon sky where a few white clouds were sailing.

"'Clouds and ships on sky, and sea,'" she murmured to herself. "'And God always at the helm.' Why do men worry? All sail into the same port at last."

He bent over her.

"What are you murmuring all to yourself down there?" he asked, smilingly.

"Nothing much; I'm just watching the flotsam and jetsam borne on the currents flowing through my mind—flowing through it and out again—away, somewhere—back to the source of thought, perhaps."

He was still bending above her, and she

looked up dreamily into his eyes.

"Do you think I shall ever have my garden?" she asked.

"All things good must come to you, Athalie."

She laughed, looking up into his eyes. "You meant that, didn't you? 'All

things good'-yes-and other things, too. They come to all, I suppose. Tell me, do you think my profession disreputable?"

"You have made it otherwise, haven't

you?"

"I don't know. I'm eternally tempted. My intelligence bothers me. And where to draw the line between what I really see and what I divine by deduction-or by intuition—I scarcely know sometimes. I try to be honest. When you came in just now, were they calling an extra?"

"Yes.

"Did you hear what they were calling?" "Something about the Empress of Formosa being reported safe."

She nodded. Then:

"That is the hopeless part of it. I can sometimes help others; never myself. I suppose you have no idea how many, many hours I have spent looking for you. I never could find you. I have never found you in my crystal or in my clearer vision or in my dreams, never heard your voice, never had news of you except by common report in every-day life. Why is it, I wonder?

His expression was inscrutable. said, her eyes still lingering on his:

"It makes me indignant to see so much that neither concerns nor interests me—so much that passes-in this"-laying one hand on the crystal beside the couch-"and never, never, in the dull monotony of the drifting multitude, to catch a glimpse of you. I wonder, were I lost somewhere in the world, if you could find me, Clive?"

"I'd die trying," he said unsmilingly. "Oh, how romantic! I wasn't fishing for a pretty speech, dear. I meant, could you find me in the crystal? Look into it, Clive."

He turned and went over to the clear, transparent sphere, and she, resting her chin on both arms, lay gazing into it, too. After a silence, he shook his head.

"I see nothing, Athalie."

"Can you not see that great yellow river, Clive? And the snow-peaks on the horizon? Palms, tall reeds, endless forests-everything so still-except birds flying and a broad river rolling between forests. And a mud-bar, swarming with crocodiles. And a dead tree stranded there, on which large birds are sitting. There is a big, catshaped animal on the bank; but the forest is dark and sunless—too dusky to see into. I think the animal is a jaguar. He's drinking now. Yes; he's a jaguar-a

heavy, squarely built, spotted creature with a broad, blunt head. He's been eating a pheasant; there are feathers everywhere -bright feathers, brilliant as jewels. Hark! You didn't hear that, did you, Clive? Somebody has shot the jaguar. They've shot him again. He's whirling round and round—and now he's down, biting at sticks and leaves. There goes another shot. The jaguar lies very still. His jaws are partly open. He has big yellow cat-teeth-I can't seem to see who shot him. There are some black men coming. One has a small American flag furled around the shaft of his spear. He's waving it over the dead jaguar. They're all dancing now. But I can't see the man who shot him."

"I shot him," said Clive.

"I thought so." She turned and dropped

back among her pillows.

"You see," she said listlessly; "I can never seem to find you, Clive. Sometimes I suspect your presence. But I am never certain. Why is it that a girl can't find the man she cares for most in the whole world?"

"Do you care for me as much as that?" "Why, yes," she said, a trifle surprised. "And do you think I return your-regard -in measure?"

She looked at him curiously, then, with

her engaging and fearless smile,

Quantum suff," she said. "You know you oughtn't to care too much for me, Clive."

"How much is too much?"

"You know," she said, watching his face, the smile still lingering on her lips.

"No, I don't. Tell me."

"I'll inform you when it's necessary."

"It's necessary now."
"No, it isn't."

"I'm afraid it is."

There was a silence. She lay watching him for a moment longer while the smile in her eyes slowly died out. Then, all in a moment, a swift change altered her expression, and she sat up on the couch, supporting herself on both hands.

"What is happening to you, Clive?" she said almost breathlessly.

"Nothing new."

"What do you mean?"

"Shall I tell you?" "Of course."

"Then-

But he could not say it. He had no business to, and he knew it. It was the one

thing he could refrain from saying for her sake-the one service he could now render her.

He sat staring into space, the iron grimness of self-control locking every fetter that he wore-must always wear, now.

She waited, her eyes intent on his face, her color high, heart rapid.

"What had you to say to me?" she asked, breaking the silence.

He forced a laugh.

"Nothing-nothing, except that sometimes being with you again makes mevery contented."

"Is that what you had to say?"

"Yes; I told you it was nothing new."

She lowered her gaze and remained silent for a moment, apparently considering what he had said.

Then the uplifted candor of her eyes questioned him again.

"You don't imagine yourself in love with me, do you, Clive?"

"No."

"Nothing like that could happen to you, could it? Because it never happened to me. It couldn't. And it would be too-too ghastly if you-if anything-

"Don't talk about it that way!" he said sharply. "If it did happen-what of it?" He forced a smile. "But it won't happen. Things like that don't happen to people like you and me. We care too much for each other, don't we, Athalie?"

"Yes; it would be terrible. I don't know why I put such ideas into your head-or into my own. But you-there was something in your expression—oh, Clive, dear, it couldn't happen to you, could it?"

She leaned forward impulsively and put both hands on his shoulders, gazing into his eves, searching them fearfully for any trace of what she thought for a moment she had seen in them.

He said, gaily enough:

"No fear, dear. I'm exactly what I always have been. I'll always be what you want me to be, Athalie."

"I know. But if ever-

"No; no; nothing can ever happen to worry you-

"But if-

"Nothing shall happen."

"I know; but if ever it does?"

"It won't."

"Oh, Clive, listen! If it does happen to you, what will you do?"

"Do?"

"Yes; if it does happen, what will you do, Clive?"

"But-

"Answer me!"

"Please answer me! What will you do about it?"

"Nothing," he said, flushing.

"Why not?"

"Why not? What is there-what would there be to do? What could I say to you

"You could say that you loved me-if

"To what purpose?" he demanded, red and astonished.

"To whatever purpose you followed. Why shouldn't you tell me? If it ever happened that you fell in love with me, I had rather you told me than that you kept silent. I had rather know it than have it happen and never know it. Is there anything wrong in a man if he happens to fall in love with a girl?"

"He can remain silent, anyway."

"Why? Because he cannot marry her? Is that why?"

"Yes."

"If you ever fell in love with me-would you wish to marry me?"

"If I ever did," he said, "I'd go through hell to marry you."

She considered him curiously, as though she were trying to realize something inconceivable.

"I never thought of you that way," she said. "I never thought of you sentimentally at all—only that I care for you deeply. I don't believe it's in me to love. I mean, as the world defines love. So, don't fall in love with me, Clive. But if you ever do, tell me."

"Why?" he asked unsteadily.

"Because you ought to tell me. I should not wish to die and never know it."

"Would you care?"

"Care? Do you ask a girl whether she could remain unmoved, uninterested, indifferent, if the man she cares for most falls in love with her?"

"Could you—respond?"
"Respond? With love? I don't know. How can I tell? I have never been in love in all my life. I don't know what it feels like. You might as well ask somebody born blind to read an ordinary book. But one

thing is certain: If that ever happens to you, you ought to tell me. Will you?"

"What good would it do?"

"What harm would it do?" she asked frankly.

"Suppose, knowing we could not marry,

I made love to you, Athalie?"

Suddenly the smile flashed in her eyes. "Do you think I'm a baby, Clive? Suppose-suppose, knowing what we know, you did make love to me? Is that very dreadful?"

"My responsibility would be."

"The responsibility is mine. I'm my own mistress. If I choose to be yours, the responsibility is mine."

'Don't say such things, Athalie!"

"Why not? Such things happen-or they don't happen. I have no idea they're likely to happen to us. I'm not a bit alarmed, Clive. Perhaps it's the courage of ignorance"-she glanced at him again, with the same curious, questioning look in her eyes-"perhaps because I cannot comprehend any such temptation. And never could. Nevertheless, if you fall in love with me, tell me. I would not wish you to remain dumb. You have a right to speak. Love isn't a question of conditions or of convenience. You ought to have your chance."

"Chance?" "Certainly." "What chance?"

"To win me."

"Win you-when I can't marry you!"

"I didn't say 'marry.' I said 'win.' If you ever fell in love with me, you would wish to win my love, wouldn't you? And if you did, and I gave it to you, you would have won me for yourself, wouldn't you? Then why should you worry concerning how I might love you? That would be my affair, my personal responsibility. And I admit to you that I know no more than a kitten what I might do about it."

She looked at him a moment, her hands still resting on his shoulders; and then suddenly she threw back her head, laughing

"Did you ever take part in such a ridiculous conversation?" she demanded. "Oh, but I have always adored theoretical conversations! Only give me an interesting subject and take one end of it, and I'll gratefully grasp the other, Clive. What an odd man you are; and I suppose I'm odd, too!

And we may yet live to inhabit an odd little house together. Wouldn't the world tear me to tatters! I wonder if I'd dare—even knowing I was all right!" The laughter died in her eyes; a swift tenderness melted them. "I do care for you so truly, Clive! I can't bear to think of ever living again without you. You know it isn't silliness or love or anything except what I've always felt for you—loyalty and devotion, endless, eternal. And that is all there is or ever will be in my heart and mind."

So clear and sweet and confident in his understanding were her eyes, that the quick emotion which leaped responsive left only a ruddy trace on his face and a slight quiver

on his lips. He said:

"Nothing shall ever threaten your trust in me. No man can ask more than you give, Athalie."

"I give you all I am. What more is there?

"I ask no more."

"Is there more to wish for? Are you

really satisfied, Clive?"
"Perfectly." But he looked away from

"And you don't imagine that you love me, do you?"
"No"—still looking away from her.

"Meet my eyes and say it."

"I____" "Clive!"

"There is no-"

"Clive, obey me!"

So he turned and looked her in the eyes. And after a moment's silence she laughed uncertainly, almost nervously.

"You-you do imagine it," she said;

"don't you?"

He made no reply. Presently she began to laugh again, a gay, tormenting, excited little laugh. Something in his face seemed to exhilarate her like wine, sending the blood to her cheeks.

"You do imagine it! Oh, Clive! You! You think yourself in love with your old comrade! I knew it! There was something about you-I can't explain exactly what-but there was something that told

She was laughing now, almost wickedly, and with all the naive and innocently malicious delight of a child delighting in its fellow's torment.

"Oh, Clive," she said, "what are you

going to do about it? And why do you gaze at me so oddly-as though I were angry or disconcerted? I'm not; I'm happy. I'm crazy about this new relation of ours. It makes you more interesting than I ever dreamed even you could be-

"You know," he said almost grimly, "if you are going to take it like this-

"Take what?"

"The knowledge that-

"That you are in love with me? Then you are! Oh, Clive, Clive-you dear, sweet, funny boy! And you've told me so, haven't you? Or it amounts to that, doesn't it?" "Yes; I love you."

She leaned swiftly toward him, sparkling,

flushed, radiant, tender.

"You dear boy! I'm not really laughing at you. I'm laughing-I don't know whyhappiness, excitement, pride-I don't know. Do you suppose it actually is love? It won't make you unhappy, will it? Besides, you can be very busy trying to win me. That will be exciting enough for both of us, won't it?"

"Yes; if I try."

"But you will try, won't you?" she demanded mockingly.

He said, forcing a smile,

"You seem to think it impossible that I

could win you." "Oh," she said airily, "I don't say that. You see, I don't know the method of procedure. I don't know what you're going to do about your falling in love with me."

He leaned over and took her by the waist, and she drew back instinctively, surprised

and disconcerted.

"That is silly," she said. "Are you going to be silly with me, Clive?"

"No," he said; "I won't be that."

He sat looking at her in silence for a few moments. And slowly the belief entered his heart like a slim steel blade that she had never loved and that there was in her nothing except what she had said there was -loyalty and devotion, unsullied and spiritual, clean of all else lower and less noble, guiltless of passion, ignorant of de-

As he looked at her, he remembered the past-remembered that once he might have taught her love in all its attributes, that once he might have married her. For in a school so gentle and secure as wedlock, such a girl might learn to love.

He had had his chance. What did he want of her now, then-more than he had Love? Her devotion of her already? amounted to that-all of it that could concern a man already married, hopelessly married to a woman who would never submit to divorce. What did he want of her,

He turned and walked to the open window, and there stood looking out over the city.

Sunset blazed crimson at the western end of every cross-street. Far away, on the Jersey shore, electric lights began to sparkle.

He did not know she was behind him until one arm fell lightly on his shoulder.

It remained there after her imprisoned waist yielded a little to his arm.

"You are not unhappy, are you, Clive?"

"No."

"I didn't mean to take it lightly. I don't comprehend; that's all. It seems to me that I can't care for you more than I do already. Do you understand?"
"Yes, dear."

She raised one cool hand and drew his cheek gently against her own, and rested so a moment, looking out across the misty city.

He remembered that night of his departure when she had put both arms around his neck and kissed him. It had been like the serene touch of a crucifix to his lips. It was like that now-the smooth, passionless touch of her cool, young face against his, and her slim hand framing his cheek.

"To think," she murmured to herself, "that you should ever care for me in that way, too. It is wonderful, wonderful-and very sweet-if it does not make you unhappy. Does it?"

"No."

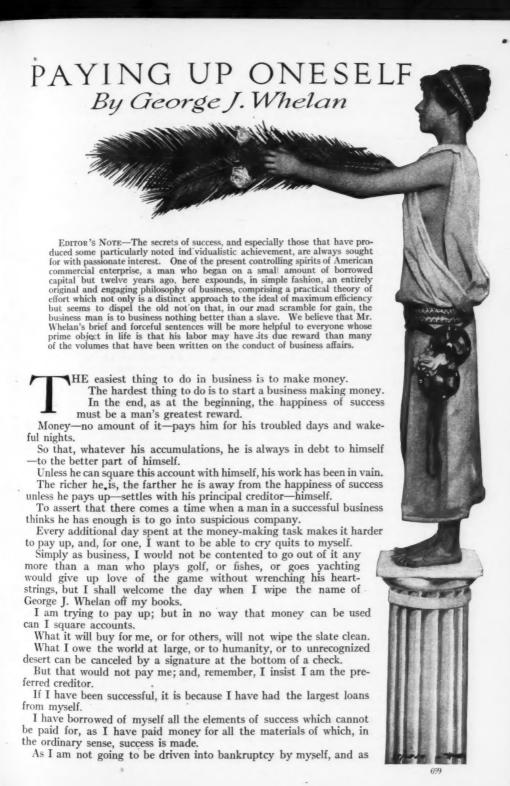
"It's so dear of you to love me that way, Could—could I do anything— Clive. about it?"

"How?"

"Would you care to kiss me?" she asked, with a faint smile, and turned her face.

Chaste, cool, and fresh as a flower, her young mouth met his, lingered; then, still smiling, and a trifle flushed and shy, she laid her cheek against his shoulder and her hands in his, calm in her security.

"You see," she said, "you need not worry over me. I am glad you are in love with me."



money will not stave off this disaster, I must find another coin in which to pay myself.

I grant I have had success, and that is

my greatest asset.

No one so well as I knows the joy I have had in that success. No one will put a higher value on it.

Never fear that, in the adjustment of my debt to myself, I shall underestimate this success.

I would not fool myself or try to fool anyone else in this regard.

Success is one offset.

My liabilities are just that amount less. It appears to me that any business man

It appears to me that any business man who is honest with himself must figure this into his calculations as the principal item.

Whatever the world says about me as a business man is another payment to me. I have to guess at this figure, but it is on my books as a payment "on account."

I only wish I could write the amount in millions, for, when all is said and done, none of us works harder for anything in life than for the esteem of our fellow men.

The loyalty of my associates in business, without whom success would have been impossible, has been set down as another payment. Sometimes I compute this item as an asset above and beyond the rest.

I like to think that in winning the stedfastness of these men, there was an achieve-

ment greater than all else.

They are my friends and have been through thick and thin, and no fundamental of business is more vital, in my opinion, than that success must always rest on such a relationship between the coworkers in a great enterprise.

If this is not commonly true in business,

it is true in my affairs.

I hope as fine a spirit has animated everybody in the ranks as at the top. I believe it has, and that pays me.

Once in a while I get a letter or a word of mouth which strengthens this opinion.

It is one of the brutalities of business that, as it grows, those who strain for its success must drift apart.

But no more brutal this than the sundering of family ties at the marriage-altar.

We can only indulge our reflections, as I am doing here. In them, at least, there is compensation not measured by dollar-marks.

But, as yet, I am not paid in full. Maybe I am overcharging myself.

Business and the men who are in its busy routine find too little of such things to cheer their hearts. If we take them seriously, are we less than human?

Are we not privileged to pay ourselves in sentiment for some of the joys of life which we have borrowed from ourselves to gain success?

I know what my answer is.

Let others answer as they choose.



Harrison Fisher's Latest Picture

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The Sixth Sense

What is the sixth sense? Not one that has come into the possession of the human race through slow evolution but one that Craig Kennedy, with his supreme knowledge of new scientific principles and implements, endows himself with when he finds himself in the most terrifying and hopeless position of his eventful career. You will readily believe that the preservation of his life is not the uppermost thing in Craig's mind when you consider the probable international consequences of the plot he has discovered, should its author succeed in carrying it out.

By Arthur B. Reeve

Author of "The Tango Thief," "The Supertoxin," and other Craig Kennedy stories

Illustrated by Will Foster

"

SUPPOSE you have read in the papers of the mysterious burning of our country house at Oceanhurst, on the south shore of Long Island?"

It had been about the middle of the afternoon that a huge automobile of the latest design drew up at Kennedy's laboratory and a stylishly dressed woman, accompanied by a very attentive young man, alighted. They had entered, and the man, with a deep bow, presented two cards bearing the names of the Count and Countess Alessandro Rovigno.

Julia Rovigno, I knew, was the daughter of Roger Gaskell, the retired banker. She had recently married Count Rovigno, a young foreigner whose family had large shipping interests in America and at Trieste, on the Adriatic.

"Yes, indeed; I have read about it," nodded Craig.

"You see," she hurried on, a little nervously, "it was a wedding-present to us from my father."

"Giulia," put in the young man quickly, giving her name an accent that was not, however, quite Italian, "thinks the fire was started by an incendiary."

Rovigno was a tall, rather boyish-looking man of thirty-two or thirty-three, with light-brown hair, light-brown beard, and mustache. His eyes and forehead spoke of intelligence; but I had never heard that he cared much about practical business affairs. In fact, to American society, Rovigno was known chiefly as one of the most daring of motor-boat enthusiasts.

"It may have been the work of an incen-

diary," he continued thoughtfully, "or it may not; I don't know. But there has been an epidemic of fires among the large houses out on Long Island lately."

I nodded to Kennedy, for I had myself compiled a list for the *Star*, which showed that considerably over a million dollars' worth of show places had been destroyed.

"At any rate," added the countess, "we are burned out, and are staying in town now—at my father's house. I wish you would come around there. Perhaps father can help you. He knows all about the country out that way, for his own place isn't a quarter of a mile away."

"I shall be glad to drop around if I can be any assistance," agreed Kennedy, as the young couple left us.

The Rovignos had scarcely gone when a woman appeared at the laboratory door. She was well dressed, pretty, but looked pale and haggard.

"My name is Mrs. Bettina Petzka," she began, singling out Kennedy. "You do not know me; but my husband, Nikola, was one of the first students you taught, Professor."

"Yes, yes; I recall him very well," replied Craig. "He was a brilliant student, too—very promising. What can I do for you?"

"Why, Professor Kennedy," she cried, no longer able to control her feelings, "he has disappeared!"

"What line of work had he taken up?"

asked Craig, interested.

"He was a wireless operator—had been employed on a liner that runs to the Adriatic from New York. But he was out of work. Some one has told me that he thought he saw Nikola in Hoboken, around the docks where a number of the liners that go to blockaded ports are laid up waiting the end of the war." She paused.

"I see," remarked Kennedy, pursing up his lips thoughtully. "Your husband was not a reservist of any of the countries at

war, was he?"

"No; he was, first of all, a scientist. I don't think he had any interest in the war—at least, he never talked much about it."

"I know," persisted Craig; "but had he taken out his naturalization papers here?"

"He had applied for them."
"When did he disappear?"

"I haven't seen him for two nights,"

she sobbed.

It flashed over me that it was now two nights since the fire that had burned Rovigno's house, although there was no reason for connecting the events. The young woman was plainly wild with anxiety.

"Oh, can't you help me find Nikola?"

she pleaded.

"I'll try my best," reassured Kennedy, taking down on a card her address, and

bowing her out.

It was late in the afternoon before we had an opportunity to call at the Gaskell town house, where the Rovignos were staying. The count was not at home, but the countess welcomed us and led us directly into a large library.

"I'd like to have you meet my father," she introduced. "Father, this is Professor Kennedy, whom Alex and I have engaged to look into the burning of our house."

Old Roger Gaskell received us, I thought, with a curious mixture of restraint and

eagerness.

"I hope you'll excuse me," said the countess, a moment later. "I really must dress for dinner. But I think I've told you all I can. I wanted you to talk to my father."

"I've heard of the epidemic of fires from my friend Mr. Jameson, here, on the Star," remarked Kennedy, when we were alone. "Some, I understand, have attributed the fires to incendiaries; others have said they were the work of disgruntled servants; others, of an architect or contractor who hasn't shared in the work and thinks he may later. I've even heard it said that an insurance man may be responsible—hoping to get new business, you know."

Gaskell looked at us keenly. Then he rose and approached us, raising his finger as though cautioning silence.

"Do you know," he whispered, so faintly that it was almost lost, "sometimes I think

there is a plot against me?"

"Against you?" whispered back Kennedy.

"Why, what do you mean?"

"I can't tell you—here," he replied; "but I believe there are detectaphones hidden about this house!"

"Have you searched?" asked Kennedy

keenly.

"Yes; but I've found nothing. I've gone over all the furniture and such things. Still, they might be inside the walls."

Kennedy nodded.

"Could you discover them if they were?" asked Gaskell.

"I think I could," replied Craig confi-

dently.

"Then there's another peculiar thing," resumed Gaskell, a little more freely but still whispering: "I suppose you know that I have a country estate not far from my daughter's." He paused. "Of course I know," he went on, watching Kennedy's face, "that sparks are sometimes struck by horses' shoes when they hit stones. But the shoes of my horses, for instance, have been giving forth sparks even in the stable out there lately. My groom called my attention to it, and I saw it myself." He continued looking searchingly at Kennedy. "You are a scientist," he said, at length. "Can you tell how this can be possible?"

Kennedy was thinking deeply.
"I can't offhand," he replied frankly;
"but I should like to have a chance to

investigate."

"There may be some connection with the fire," hinted Gaskell, as he accompanied us to the door.

At our own apartment, when we returned, we found our friend Burke, of the secret service, waiting for us.

"Just had a hurry-call to come to New York," he explained, "and thought I'd like to drop in on you first."

"What's the trouble?" asked Kennedy.
"Why, there's been a mysterious yacht lurking about the mouth of the harbor for several days, and they want to look into it."

"Whose yacht do they think it is?"
"They don't know; but it is said to resemble one that belongs to a man named Gaskell."

"Gaskell?" repeated Craig, turning suddenly.

"Yes, the Furious, a fast floating palace, one of these new power yachts, run by a gas engine—built for speed. Why, do you know anything about it?"

Kennedy said nothing.

"The revenue cutter Uncas has been assigned to me," went on Burke. "If you have nothing better to do, I'd like to have you give me a hand in the case. You might find it a little different from the ordinary run."

"I shall be glad to go with you," replied Craig cordially. "Only, just now I've got a particular case of my own. I'll see you to-morrow at the custom-house, though, if I can."

"Good!" exclaimed "I don't think either of you, particularly Jameson, will regret it. It promises to be a good story."

Kennedy decided on his next move. We went directly over to the Long Island Railroad station and caught the next train out to Oceanhurst, not a long run from the city.

Thus, early in the evening, Kennedy was able to begin, under cover, his investigation of the neighborhood of the Rovigno and Gaskell houses.

We entered the Gaskell estate and looked it over as we made our way toward the stable to find the groom. Out on the bay we could see the Furious at anchor. Nearer inshore were a couple of Count Rovigno's speedy racing motor-boats. Along the



"Why, Professor Kennedy," she cried, no longer able to control her feelings, "he has disappeared!"

shore, we saw a basin for yachts, capable, even, of holding the Furious.

The groom proved to be a rather dullwitted fellow, and left us pretty much to our own devices.

"Ya-as-sparks-I saw 'em," he drawled, in answer to Kennedy's question. "So did Mr. Gaskell. Naw; I don't know nawthin' about 'em."

He had lumbered out into another part of the stable when I heard a low exclamation from Craig.

"Look, Walter!"

I did look—in amazement. There were, indeed, little sparks—in fact, a small burst of them in all directions where there were metal surfaces in close proximity.

Kennedy had brought along with him a strange instrument, and he was now looking

attentively at it.

"What is that?" I asked.

"The bolometer," he replied, "invented by Professor Langley."

"And what does it do?"

"Detects waves," he replied, "rays that are invisible to the eye. For instance, just now it tells me that shooting through the darkness are invisible waves, perhaps infrared rays."

He paused, and I looked at him inquir-

ingly.

"You know," he explained, "the infrared rays are closer to the heat rays than those of the upper end of the spectrum and beyond the ultra-violet rays, with which we have already had some experience." Kennedy continued to look at his bolometer. "Yes," he remarked thoughtfully, half to himself; "somewhere around here there is a generator of infra-red rays and a projector of those rays. It reminds me of those socalled F rays of Ulivi—or, at least, of a very powerful wireless."

I was startled at the speculations that his words conjured up in my mind. Was the "evil eye" of superstition a scientific fact? Was there a baneful beam that could be directed at will—one that could not be seen or felt until it worked its havoc? Was there a power that steel walls could not hold, which, in fact, was the more surely trans-

mitted by them?

Somehow, the fact of the strange disappearance of Petzka, the wireless operator, kept bobbing up in my mind. I could not help wondering whether; perhaps, he had found this strange power and was using it for some nefarious purpose. Could it have been Petzka who was responsible for the fires? But why? I could not figure it out.

Early the next morning we called at the Gaskell town house again. Kennedy had brought with him a small piece of apparatus which seemed to consist of two sets of coils placed on the ends of a magnet-bar. To them was attached a long, flexible wire

which he screwed into an electric-light bulbsocket. Then he placed a peculiar, telephonelike apparatus, attached to the other end, to his ears. He adjusted the magnets and carried the thing carefully about the room.

At one point, he stopped and moved the thing vertically up along the wall.

"That's a gas-pipe," he said simply. "What's the instrument?" I asked.

"A new apparatus for finding pipes electrically, which, I think, can be just as well applied to finding other things concealed in walls under plaster and paper." He paused to adjust the thing. "This electrical method," he went on, "is a special applica-"This electrical tion of well-known induction-balance principles. You see, one set of coils receives an alternating or vibrating current; the other is connected with this telephone. First, I established a balance so that there was no sound in the telephone." He moved the thing about. "Now, when the device comes near metal piping, for example, or a wire, the balance is disturbed, and I hear a sound. That was the gas-pipe. It is easy to find its exact location. Hello!"

He paused again in a corner, back of Gaskell's desk, and appeared to be listening intently. A moment later he was ruthlessly breaking through the plaster of the beauti-

fully decorated wall.

Sure enough, in there was a detectaphone, concealed only a fraction of an inch beneath the paper, with the wires leading down inside the partition in the direction of the cellar. Craig ripped the little mechanical eavesdropper out, wires and all, but he did not disconnect the wires yet.

We traced it out, and down into the cellar the wires led directly, and then across, through a small opening in the foundations, into the cellar of the next-door apartmenthouse, ending in a bin or storeroom.

In itself, the thing, so far, gave no clue as to who was using it or the purpose for which it had been installed. But it was

strange.

"Some one was evidently trying to get something from you, Mr. Gaskell," remarked Craig pointedly, after we returned to the Gaskell library. "Why do you suppose he went to all that trouble?"

Gaskell shrugged his shoulders and

averted his eyes.

"I've heard of a yacht outside New York harbor," added Craig casually.

"A yacht?"

"Yes," he said nonchalantly; "the Furious."

Gaskell met Kennedy's eye and looked at him as though Craig had some occult power of divination. Then he moved over closer to us.

"Is that detectaphone thing out of business now?" he asked hoarsely.

"Yes."

"Absolutely?"
"Absolutely."

Gaskell leaned over.

"Then I don't mind telling you, Professor Kennedy," he said, in a low tone, "that I am letting a friend of mine from London use that yacht to supply the Allies' war-ships in the Atlantic with news, supplies, and ammunition, such as can be carried."

Kennedy looked at him keenly, but for some moments did not answer. I knew he was debating on how he might ethically dovetail this with Burke's case.

"Some one is trying to find out, by eavesdropping, just what your plans are, then," remarked Craig thoughtfully, with a significant tap on the detectaphone.

A moment later, he turned his back to us and knelt down. He seemed to be wrapping the detectaphone up in a small package which he put in his pocket, and closing the hole in the wall as best he could where he had ripped the paper.

"All I ask of you," concluded Gaskell, as we left, a few minutes later, "is to keep your hands off that phase of things. Find the incendiary—yes; but this other matter that you have forced out of me—well—hands off!"

On our way down-town to keep the appointment made with Burke the night before, Kennedy stopped at the laboratory to get a heavy parcel, which he carried along. We found Burke waiting for us, impatiently, at the custom-house.

"We've just discovered that the liners over in Hoboken have had steam up for a couple of days," he said excitedly. "Evidently they are waiting to make a break for the ocean—perhaps in concert with a sortie of the fleets over in Europe."

"H-m," mused Kennedy, looking fixedly at Burke; "that complicates matters, doesn't it? We must preserve American neutrality." He thought a moment. "I should like to go aboard the revenue cutter. May I?"

"Surely," agreed Burke.

A few moments later, on the Uncas, Kennedy and Burke engaged in earnest conversation in low tones which I did not overhear. Evidently, Craig was telling him just enough of what he had himself discovered so as to enlist Burke's services.

The captain in charge of the Uncas joined the conversation a few moments later, and then Kennedy took the heavy package down below. For some time he was at work in one of the forward tanks that was full of water, attaching the thing, whatever it was, in such a way that it seemed to form part of the ship's skin.

Another brief talk with Burke and the captain followed, and then the three returned to the deck.

"Oh, by the way," remarked Burke, as he and Kennedy came back to me, "I forgot to tell you that I have had some of my men working on the case, and one of them has just learned that a fellow named Petzka, one of the best wireless operators—a Hungarian or something—has been engaged to go on that yacht."

"Petzka?" I repeated involuntarily.
"Yes," said Burke, in surprise; "do you know anything about him?"

I turned to Kennedy.

"Not much," replied Craig. "But you can find out about him, I think, through his wife. He used to be one of my students. Here's her address. She's very anxious to hear from him."

Burke took the address, and a little while later we went ashore.

I was not surprised when Kennedy proposed, as the next move, to revisit the cellar in the apartment-house next to Gaskell's home. But I was surprised at what he did after we had reached the place.

All along I had supposed that he was planning to wait there in hope of catching the person who had installed the detectaphone. That, of course, was a possibility still. But, in reality, he had another purpose also.

We secreted ourselves in the cellar storeroom, which was in a dark corner, where one might remain unobserved even if the janitor entered the cellar, provided he did not search that part. Kennedy took the receiving headpiece of the detectaphone and placed it over his head, quite as if nothing had happened.

"What's the use of that?" I queried. "You ripped the transmitter out up above."

He smiled quietly.

"While my back was turned toward you, so that you couldn't see," he said, "I slipped the thing back again, only down further, where Gaskell wouldn't be likely to find it, even if he looked. I don't know whether he was frank with us, so I thought I'd try the eavesdropping game myself, in place of the man who put this thing in in the first place, whoever he was."

We took turns listening, but could hear not a sound. Nor did anyone come into the cellar. Thus, a good part of the afternoon passed, apparently fruitless. My patience was thoroughly exhausted when, suddenly, a motion from Craig revived my flagging interest. I waited impatiently for him to tell me what it was that he heard.

"What was it?" I asked, finally, as he pulled the receivers off his head and stood

for a moment considering.

"At first I heard the sound of voices," he answered quickly. "One was the voice of a woman, which I recognized. It was the countess. The other was the count.

"'Giulia,' I heard him say, as they entered the room, 'I don't see why you should want to go. It's dangerous. And, besides, it's none of our business if your father allows his yacht to be used for such a purpose.'

"But I want to go, Alex,' she said. 'I will go. I'm a good sailor. It's father's

yacht. He won't care.'

"'But' what's the use?' he expostulated. 'Besides—think of the danger! If it was our business, it might be different.'

"'I should think you'd want to go.'
"'Not I. I can get all the excitement I
want in a motor-boat race, without risking

my precious neck pulling the chestnuts out of the fire for some one else.'

"'Well, I want the adventure,' she persisted.

"But, Giulia, if you go to-night, think of the risk!"

"That was the last I heard as they left the room, still arguing. Evidently, some one is going to pull off something to-night."

It did not take Kennedy long to make up his mind what to do next. He left the cellar hurriedly, and, in the laboratory, hastily fixed up a second heavy and bulky package similar to that which he had taken down to the revenue cutter earlier in the day, making it into two parcels so as to distribute the burden between us.

That night, we journeyed out to Ocean-

hurst again. Avoiding the regular road, we made our way from the station to the Gaskell place by a roundabout path, and it was quite dark by the time we got there.

As we approached the basin, we saw that there were several men about. They appeared to be on guard, but since Oceanhurst, at that season, was pretty well deserted and the Gaskell estate was out of the town, they were not especially vigilant.

Dark and grim, with only one light showing weakly, lay the yacht, having been run into the basin now. A hawser had been stretched across the mouth of the basin. Outside was a little tender, while a searchlight was playing over the water all the time. Evidently, whatever interference was feared was expected from the water rather than from the land.

We slunk into the shadow of a row of bath-houses, in order to get our bearings. On the opposite side from the road that led down from the house, it was not so likely that anyone would suspect that interlopers were hiding there. Still, they were not neglecting that side of the basin, at least

in a perfunctory sort of way.

Kennedy drew me back deeper into the shadow at the sound of footsteps on the board walk leading to the front of the bathhouses. From our hiding-place, we could now hear two voices, apparently of sailors.

"Do you know the new wireless operator who goes with us to-night?" asked one.
"No; they've been very careful of him.

I guess they were afraid that some one might get wise. But there couldn't very well be any leak there. One of those Englishmen has been with him every minute since he was engaged."

"They say he's pretty good. Who is

he?"

"A Servian, he says, and his name sounds as if it might be so."

The voices trailed off. It was only a scrap of conversation, but Kennedy had not missed a word of it.

"That means Petzka," he nodded to me.
"What is he—a Hungarian or a Servian?"

I asked quickly.

Kennedy had craned his neck out beyond the corner of the bath-houses and was look-

ing at the Furious in the basin.

"Come on, Walter," he whispered, not taking time to answer my question; "those fellows have gone. There's no one at all on this side of the basin, and I just saw the men on deck go up the gangplank to the boat-house. They can't do any more than

put us off, anyhow."

a cabin.

one was there, and we dived down. It was the work of a moment to secrete ourselves in the blank darkness aft, behind a pile of boxes. A noise startled us. Some one was coming down the steep, ladderlike stairs. A moment

the boxes.

see them.

He had watched his chance well. As quickly as we could, burdened down by our two heavy packages, we managed to slip across the board walk to the piling that formed that side of the basin. The Furious had swung over with the tide nearer our side than the other. It was a daring leap, but Craig made it as lightly as a cat, landing on the deck. I passed over the packages and followed.

there treachery in the crew? He was leaning forward as much as our cramped quarters would permit, so as not to miss a word that was uttered.

"All right," said the other voice. "No one suspects?"

"No; but the secret service has been pretty busy. They suspect somethingbut not this.

"Good! You are sure that you can detonate them when the time comes?"

"Positive. Everything is working fine.

Kennedy scarcely paused to glance about. He had chosen a moment when no one was looking, and, bending down under the weight of the packages, we dodged back of A dim light shining into the hold told us that no later, we heard another noise. There were two persons moving about among From our hiding-place we could overhear them talking in hoarse whispers, but could not "Where did you put them?" asked a voice. "In every package of explosives, "I am letting a and in as many of the boxes of canned friend of mine from London goods as I had time." use that yacht to supply the I looked at Kennedy, wide-eyed. Was Allies' war-ships in the Atlantic"

I've done my part of it. Changing wireless operators gave me just the chance I wanted."

"All right. I guess I'll go now."

"Remember the signal. As soon as the things are detonated, I will get off some way, by wireless, the S O S-as if it came from the fleet, you understand."

"Yes; that will be the signal for the Good luck! I'm going ashore

now."

As they passed up the ladder, I could no longer restrain myself.

"Craig," I cried, "this is devilish!"

I thought I saw it all now. In the cases of goods on the Furious were some terrible infernal machines which had been hidden, to be detonated by these deadly rays of

Kennedy was busy, working quickly, putting together the parts he had taken from

the two packages we had carried.

As I watched him, I realized that the burning of the Rovigno house was not the action of an incendiary after all. It had been done by these deadly rays, probably

by mere accident.

As nearly as I could make it out, there was a counterplot against the Furious. Somewhere was an infernal workshop, possibly hedged about by doors of steel which ordinary force would find hard to penetrate, but from which, any moment, this supercriminal might send out his deadly power.

The more I considered it, while Kennedy worked, the more uncanny it seemed. This man had rendered the mere possession of explosives more dangerous to the possessor than to the enemy. Archimedes had been

outdone!

The problem before us now was not only the preservation of American neutrality but

the actual safety of life.

Through the open hatch I could now hear voices on the deck. One was that of a woman, which I recognized quickly. It was Julia Rovigno.

"I'll be just as quiet as a mouse," she was saying. "I'll stay in the cabin-I won't

be in the way."

I could not hear the man's voice in reply, but it did not sound like Rovigno's. It was

rather like Gaskell's.

Still, we had heard enough to know that Julia Rovigno was on the yacht, had insisted on going on the expedition for the

excitement of the thing, just as we had heard over the detectaphone.

"Hadn't we better warn her?" I asked Craig, who had paused in his work at the sound of voices.

Before he could answer we were plunged in sudden darkness. Some one had switched out the light that had been shining down through the hatchway. Before we knew it, the opening to the hatchway had been closed. Kennedy groped about for a light, stum-

"For heaven's sake, Craig," I entreated, "be careful! Those packages are full of the devilish things!" He said nothing.

bling over boxes and bags.

At least we had a little more freedom to move, and I managed to find my way over to a little round port-hole and open it.

As I looked out, I almost fainted at the realization. The Furious was under way! We were locked in the hold-virtual prisoners—our only company those dastardly infernal machines, whose very nature we did not know. Helplessly I gazed around me. There seemed to be only this one port-

Why had Kennedy not foreseen this risk? I glanced at him. He had found an electric light, connected with the yacht's dynamo, and, before turning it on, closed and covered the port so that it threw no reflection out.

Far from being disconcerted, on the contrary he seemed rather pleased than otherwise at the unexpected turn of events.

As I looked at our scant and cramped quarters, I could see absolutely no way of getting word to anyone off the Furious who

might help us.

What Craig was working on I did not know, but if it was some sort of wireless, even if we were able to send a message, what hope was there that it would get past the delicate wireless detector which this criminal must have somewhere near for tapping messages that were being flashed through the air? Had we not heard him say that the signal was to be an SOS sent, as it were, from the fleet far out on the ocean?

I could well have believed that Kennedy could rig up some means of communication. But, if the possessor of this terrible infrared-ray or wireless-wave secret should learn that we, too, knew it, the only result that he would accomplish would be to insure our destruction immediately.

It was a foggy night, and a drizzle had set in. The Furious could not, under such

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In a chair, bound and gagged, as though he had been overcome only after a struggle, sat Petzka.

His wife threw herself frantically on him

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circumstances, make such good speed as she was accustomed to make. Fortunately, also, the waves were not running high. Craig had taken a desperate chance. How would he meet it? I watched him at work, fascinated by our peril.

Finishing as quickly as he could, he put out our sole electric light, unscrewed the bulb, and attached to the socket a wire which he had connected with the instrument over which he had spent so many precious moments.

Through the little port-hole, he cast a peculiar heavy disk, such as I had seen him place so carefully aboard the Uncas.

It sank in the water with a splash, and trailed along beside the yacht, held by a wire submerged perhaps ten or twelve feet.

Kennedy made a final inspection of the thing as well as he could by the light of a match, then pressed a key which seemed to close a circuit. I could feel a dull, metallic vibration.

"What are you doing?" I asked, looking curiously, also, at an arrangement like a microphone which he had placed over his ears.

"It works!" he cried excitedly. "What works?" I reiterated.

"This Fessenden oscillator," he explained. "It's a system for the employment of sound for submarine signals. I don't know whether you realize it, but great advance has been made recently, since it was suggested to use water instead of air as the medium for transmitting signals. I can't stop to explain this apparatus just now, but it is composed of a ring magnet, a copper tube which lies in an air gap of a magnetic field, and a stationary central armature.

"The copper tube, which has an alternating current induced in it, is attached to solid disks of steel which, in turn, are attached to a steel diaphragm an inch thick. On board the Uncas, I had a chance to make that diaphragm practically a part of the side of the ship. Here, I have had to hang it overboard, with a large water-tight diaphragm

attached to the oscillator.'

I listened eagerly.

"The same oscillator," he went on, "is used for sending and receiving, for, like the ordinary electric motor, it is also capable of acting as a generator, and a very efficient one, too. All I have to do is to throw a switch in one direction when I want to telegraph or telephone under water, and in the other direction when I want to listen in."

I could scarcely credit what I heard. Craig had circumvented even the spectacular wireless. He was actually talking through water. He had virtually endowed himself with a sixth sense!

I watched him, spellbound. Would he succeed in whatever it was that he was

planning? I waited anxiously.

"There's the answer!" he exclaimed, in "Burke is on the sudden exultation. Uncas. He tells me that he went to see Mrs. Petzka, and she is with him—insisted on going when she heard that her husband had been engaged by the Furious." He waited a moment. "You see, Walter," he resumed, "what I am doing is to send out signals by which the Uncas can locate and followus. She is fast—but, thank heaven! this yacht has to go slow to-night. Sound travels in water at a velocity of about four thousand feet a second. For instance, I find that I get an echo in about one-twentieth of a second. That is the reflected soundwave from the bottom, and indicates that we are in water of about one hundred feet depth. Then I get another echo in something over two seconds. That is from the waves reflected from the Uncas, which has been hovering about, waiting for something to happen. They can't be much more than a mile and a half away now. I had expected to signal them from the shore—a dock or something of the sort, using this oscillator to get around that fellow's wireless; but we're much better off here.'

I looked at him in amazement.

"Surrounded by all this junk that may blow us to kingdom come, any second?" I demanded.

"Burke says steam is still up on all the ships tied up in the harbor so that they can make a dash for it. They are evidently waiting for that S O S signal."

"That's all right," I said, in desperation; "but suppose they blow us up, first?"

"Blow us up, first?" he repeated. "Why, don't you understand? It is not the Furious that they are after. The whole war-fleet that is hanging around in this part of the Atlantic is to be blown up in mid-ocean, as part of the plan to aid the escape of the interned ships from New York."

"Oh," I breathed, with a sigh of relief,

"that's it, is it?"

"Yes. We'll get in bad all around if we can't stop it—Burke with the secret service, and ourselves with Gaskell, who doesn't dream that his yacht is being used for the exact opposite of the purpose for which he thinks he has lent it—to say nothing of the mess that our government will have to face for letting these precious schemers play ducks and drakes with our neutrality."

We waited eagerly, Kennedy sending out and receiving the submarine signals, and I peering out anxiously into the almost im-

penetrable fog.

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Suddenly, apparently from nowhere in the shifting mist, lights seemed to loom up. Instead of stopping, however, the Furious put on a sudden burst of reckless speed.

The Uncas was no match for her at that game. Would she escape finally, after all?

A sharp report rang out. The Uncas had sent a shot across our bows, so dangerously close that it snapped one of the cables that braced the mast.

The vibration of our engine slowed and ceased, and we lay idly wallowing in the waves, as the revenue cutter, bearing our

friend Burke and help, came up.

A couple of boats put out from the cutter, and in almost no time we could hear the tread of feet and the exchange of harsh words as the government officers swarmed up the ladder to our deck. It was only a moment later that the hatch was broken open and we heard Burke, calling,

"Kennedy-are you and Jameson all

right?"

"Right here!" sang out Craig, detaching the oscillator and replacing the electric

bulb, which he lighted.

The commotion on deck was too great for anyone to make much of finding us two stowaways. The countess was astonished, however, and, I felt, rather glad to see us at a time when we might possibly exert some influence in her favor, if matters came

to a more serious pass.

There was scarcely time for a word. Burke's men were working quickly. They had entered the hold, after a word from Kennedy, and far out into the ocean they were casting the boxes and bags overboard, one at a time, as fast as they could. They worked feverishly, as Burke spurred them on, and I must say that it was with the utmost relief that I saw the things thrown over. The boxes sank, but rose again and floated, bobbing up and down—at least some of them—perhaps a third above water and two-thirds below.

It was not for several minutes that I noticed that with those who had come aboard the Furious from the cutter stood Bettina Petzka. A moment later, she caught sight of Kennedy.

"Where is my husband?" she demanded. Kennedy had no chance to reply.

Suddenly a series of flashes shattered the darkness. A terrific roar seemed to rise from the very ocean, while a rain of sparks lighted up great spurts of water and then fell back, to perish in the dark waves. The Furious trembled from end to end.

Startled, we looked at each other. But we were all safe. The things had been deto-

nated in the water.

"Only the fact that he would have blown himself up prevented him from blowing up the yacht and all the evidence against him, now that we have discovered his plot!" cried Burke excitedly, dashing down the deck.

Scarcely recovered from our surprise at the explosion and the queer actions of the secret-service man, we rushed after him.

He led the way to the little wirelessroom. The door was bolted on the inside, but we managed soon to burst it open.

I shall never forget the surprise which greeted us. In a chair, bound and gagged, as though he had been overcome only after a struggle, sat Petzka. His wife threw herself frantically on him, tearing at the stout cords that held him.

"Nikola, what is the matter?" she

cried. "What has happened?"

Through his gag, which she had loosened a bit, he made a peculiar, gurgling noise. As nearly as I could make out, he was struggling to say,

"He came in-surprised me-seized me

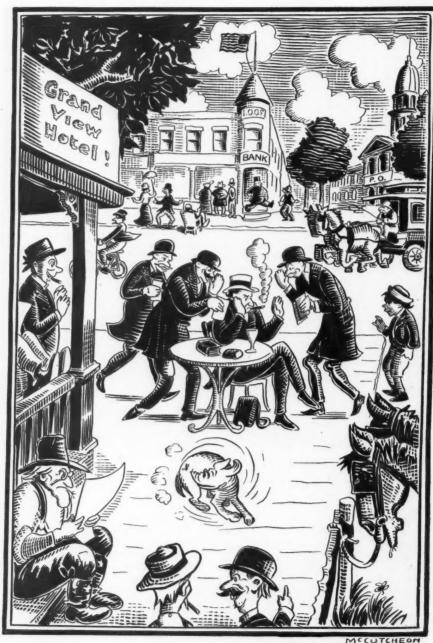
-locked the door."

Julia Rovigno stood rooted to the spot—

utterly speechless.

There, surrounded by electric batteries, condensers, projectors, regulators, resonators, reflectors, voltmeters, and ammeters, queer apparatus which he had smuggled secretly on the Furious, before a strange sort of device, with a wireless headgear still over his ears, stood the owner of at least two of the liners of the belligerents which were to have made the dash for the ocean, after he had succeeded, by his new wirelessray device, in removing the hostile fleet—Count Rovigno himself!

The next Craig Kennedy story will be The Absolute Zero.



While you are seated at the Table, arrange to have several Human Reptiles in glistening Frock Coats come up and furtively submit for your approval the kind of Photographs that no man who expects to drop dead would care to have on his Person

New Fables in Slang

By George Ade

Illustrated by John T. McCutcheon

The Fable of the Man Who Wanted His Europe

NCE there was a Slave pulling an Oar in a large Galley with a New Jersey Charter.

For many Seasons he had toiled with creaking Sinews and popping Eyeballs so that his beloved Corporation would never

have to foozle a Dividend.

Always he was sustained by a rosecolored Hope. Every time he readjusted his clanking Chains he told himself that some day he would bust forth from his blithering Bondage and jamboree his way through Europe.

The Lantern Slides and those fascinating accordion Folders put out by Tourist Agencies had nursed him along until he believed that Europe consisted of Sunrise in the Tyrol and Moonlight on the Grand

Canal.

The Old World promised him a foretaste of Paradise, minus the Moral Restrictions.

At last he earned his Leave of Absence and had his Collateral all counted out, ready to be whizzed, but he got word that the Elysian Fields were strung with Barbed Wire and the Happy Peasants of his Day-Dreams were dodging Shrapnel.

The only Steamers sailing for the land of promised Delights were laden with contraband, and Correspondents who wore Khaki

and signed their Stuff.

It was a cruel disappointment to the would-be Pilgrim. He heard the clarion call of the full-page Advertisers, who told him to See America First; but when a True Sport has got himself all keyed up for the ravishments of Vienna and Budapest, he does not care to have any rhetorical Passenger Agent come along and try to slip him St. Louis as a Substitute.

While he was in deep grief over the dishing of his Plans, he met at his Club an eld-

erly Grouch who had traveled so much that he had begun to look British.

The perennial Rambler had specialized on Food and Drink in every Capital of Europe and knew all the Monarchies by

their first Names.

The poor Chap who had been denied the Transatlantic Holiday sat down with the fish-eyed Veteran and began to weep into his Bronx.

It seemed that he had his Steamer-Shawl and the Phrase-Book and the Letters of Introduction all packed, and was ready to yo-heave-ho, when the Blow-Off came.

"Control yourself," advised Mr. Grouch.
"All is not lost. I know the dear old Stamping-Ground from the North Cape down to the Blue Grotto. I have seen countless hordes of first-time Cookies going through the deadly Routine. If you will follow my Directions, you may duplicate all the essential Items of a visit to Europe without yielding up your entire Fortune or suffering the pangs of Nostalgia. In other words, I will bring the Old World right to your own Threshold."

It sounded foolish and unlikely, but the Traveler persisted that he could deliver the Goods and even volunteered to draft a set of Rules for putting the usual experiences of a Foreign Tour within the reach of any

Poor Family.

That afternoon he scanned his Travel-Notes and dictated a mess of Notes to the human Secretary. Next day he sought out the dejected Wimp who was hungering for the Eastern Hemisphere.

"Go to it," said the Veteran, passing over a Screed very neatly typed. "If the Game of Golf and Vocal Music can be taught by a Correspondence School, there is no earthly Reason why one should not take an extended Journey while remaining Stationary."

The Directions were as follows:

EVERY FELLOW HIS OWN EUROPE

Scoring for a Start—In order to duplicate the Joys of a Grand Tour without venturing beyond Sandy Hook, the first Task is to attend several going-away Dinners.

As soon as you are feeling logy and op-

pressed, begin packing.

Collect all of your Wearing Apparel into a mound at least four feet high and then crowd the whole Layout into a low-browed Steamer-Trunk with baffling Partitions.

How to be Seen Off—You are now ready to sail. In order to experience the usual delirium of getting away from the Dock, stand in the main entrance of a Department Store for one hour during the most turbulent period of Shopping. Surround yourself with superfluous Friends and Relatives and have them repeat over and over: "Bon Voyage! Bon Voyage! Bon Voyage!" Carry a bouquet of Killarney Roses and promise to Write.

OUT ON THE BOUNDING—You are now ready for the Ocean Voyage, always recommended by Doctors who wish to get shut of troublesome Patients.

Select a medium-sized Closet, entirely boxed in except for a single Opening about the size of a Griddle-Cake. Along one side of the dim Cubby-Hole build a Shelf, or Berth. Measure yourself and make the

Bunk two inches shorter.

Put the Steamer-Trunk under the Sleeping-Trough. Then install a Wash-Stand and Wardrobe in the remaining Corners, so that, when the Trunk is pulled out from the dim Recess under the Sarcophagus, the occupant of the Cell must crawl into Bed in order to reach down and unpack a pair of heavy Socks. This sounds intricate, but it will work out unless your Closet happens to be larger than the ordinary Stateroom.

While at sea, you are supposed to rest. For six days you will spend most of your time on a cylindrical Mattress in the dusky Cavern described above. Every hour or so have a clammy and unsympathetic Stevedore in the Costume of a Street-Cleaner come into your little Vault and tell you that

the Weather is clearing.

Each day you must rally for a time and venture forth. This is called "Taking the Air." Put on some damp clothing, climb to the roof of your House, and lie horizontally, facing the Sky. A convincing Detail, tending to heighten the Verisimilitude, would be to accept a Sea-Biscuit every little while from a so-called Steward. Anyone with the wrong kind of Mustache can impersonate a Steward. No matter how often he appears, you must inquire of him as follows: "When do you think we will land?" He will give an evasive answer, after which you are supposed to take a Nap.

Possibly no one ashore has ever voluntarily gone in for Shuffleboard. Still, if you crave Realism, borrow a Crutch and try to propel wooden Disks so that they will pause within a rectangular Area bounded by Chalk Marks. Do this in Private, or some one may ask to have a Conservator ap-

pointed.

Hang a large Bell just outside your Cabin and arrange to have some one beat it with a Hammer every fifteen minutes. Each time you hear the Bell, look at your Watch.

GREAT BRITAIN'S WELCOME TO THE STRANGER—After one week in the Closet, you must imagine that the Good Ship is lying off the British Coast, which is blurred with Fog and lacking in Detail.

You are now ready to travel by railway up to London. This unusual Experience may be duplicated if you will consent to crowd yourself into a Pullman Compartment with five Total Strangers and refrain from Conversation.

Having disembarked in Merrie England, you are at once entitled to the Knowledge, carefully withheld from the General Run of People by all Travelers, that England is just as merry as the side view of a Hearse.

CUTTING LOOSE IN LONDON—In order to imagine yourself in the Modern Babylon, you should first of all go to a Tailor off in a Side Street and order a \$15 Suit with the Trousers fitting snugly under the Arms and plenty of Excelsior in the Shoulders.

Then drink a large slug of the Aromatic Spirits of Caledonia diluted with tepid

Water.

Ride in a Taxi until you are dizzy, after which retire to a Cold-Storage Warehouse. Arrange to have your Dinner served in a Deaf and Dumb asylum. By closing your eyes, you can imagine yourself in the very liveliest corner of a large Apartment overlooking the Thames.

Probably you have been honing for years to go rollicking about London night after night, dropping in at the Halls and the Revues. Just sit in a cloud of Tobacco Smoke and have some one feed last year's Ragtime into a Talking Ma-

chine, and you will get most of the Sensations awaiting you at the Pavilion or the Oxford.

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Crossing the Channel—This is something you will want to talk about for a long time to come, so do it right. Doubtless your Steam Laundryman will give you permission to ride for an hour in one of his restless rotary Receptacles.

SETTLING DOWN TO A SYS-TEM-Assuming that you are the Typical American Traveler, doubtless you will wish to clean up all of Europe in about Six Weeks. This will call for a lot of Hard Work and a very compact Schedule, which can be enacted in St. Joe, Missouri, or Upper Sandusky, Ohio, just as easily as in Rotterdam or Marseilles.

Arise every

morning and rub yourself casually with a damp Sponge.

Eat a hard Roll coated with Shellac, and be sure that your Coffee is sufficiently modified by Chicory and drowned in Hot Milk.

Spend an hour in packing everything that you unpacked the previous Afternoon.

Hurry out to a City Ticket Office. After you have elbowed your way to a desirable Frontage, claim the attention of the frigid



Every hour or so have a clammy and unsympathetic Stevedore in the costume of a Street-Cleaner come into your little Vault and tell you that the Weather is clearing

Lad with the striped Shirt and talk him to a Standstill. Remember that five per cent. of all the time spent in Europe must be given over to the painful consideration of Time-Tables.

Each day you must buy a stack of Post-Cards, done in passionate Colors. Address them to distant Relatives. Also to the Neighbors you dislike, so as to make them envious. Write something sappy along the border of each Card.

Don't forget your Tipping. To make sure of upholding your country's Reputation and to observe all Precedents, push a small Piece of Silver toward everyone who

deigns to notice you.

At least once a Day retire to a stuffy Apartment billed as a Salon, and carefully read a Boston Newspaper about three Weeks old. Also peruse eight pages of microscopical Printing in a red Guide-Book.

What with the packing and unpacking, the mad gallop to the Booking Office, the fluttering uncertainty over the selection of the Carte Postales, the prolonged endeavor to remember all of your remote Kin, the Tipping, the Tabble Dotty, the customary search through the Reading-Room for something recent, the devotional hour with Baedeker, and the attempt to select a Train by which to escape to the next Jump, the Day will become so crowded that you will not have to waste much time on Galleries, Cathedrals, Museums, and Shops.

How to recover from the Chautauqua Fever—For the first fortnight of this supposititious flight across the Continent, you should endeavor to churn up a frothing interest in the educational features of the Tour. Two weeks will be long enough. Most of the Students who have taken a preliminary Course of Reading, so they will understand everything they see, begin to stall and lay off after about four days. The more violent the early Attack the more rapid the Recovery, after which you will be Immune.

ART—Any collection of Paintings with Gold Frames will serve as a substitute for a famous Gallery. When you discover that you cannot discriminate between a Notable Canvas and the kind displayed in every good Buffet in Atlantic City, you will be shained and discouraged, and begin looking for an Exit.

Even if you pump up a genuine interest, you will be google-eyed after you have studied some 200 Masterpieces. Be on the level with yourself. If you will not walk across the Street in your Native Town to look at the real Specimens of Art imported by some generous Millionaire, don't kid yourself into thinking that you will blossom into a Ruskin Fan when you go abroad.

No matter how many Miles a Man may travel, he will never get ahead of Himself.

MUSEUMS—The passion for Museums will evaporate ever so rapidly. If you want to know what it feels like to visit a famous Museum, walk rapidly through the Crockery Department of any large Retail Establishment and you will get all of the Thrills.

ARCHITECTURE, ETC.—We come now to the noble Edifices. Let us see if we can find close at hand something Colossal and Ornate which will cause us to throb. A man of ordinary Physique is good for only about two large Throbs in one day. Why not stand in front of a gigantic Railway Station in New York City and remove the Hat? Then have some one remark that the Façade was built by Spinkadelli in the Thirteenth Century. Emit a sigh of Admiration, replace the Hat, and you will be just as well off as if you were in Milano.

By this time you are scoffing at my Instructions. If you think that the Average Traveler retains anything valuable or lasting from his jumble of hurried Impressions, why not make Casual Inquiry of some Highbrow Friend who took the Mediterranean Trip last winter? Ask him about Rome—the recognized headquarters for impressive Antiquities. He will tell you that he paid \$7 a day for his Room and had to walk down the Hallway to get a Bath.

Picking up Odd Little Things—Regarding the Shops, I am compelled to confess that, by diligent search through the smaller Establishments of the Strand, Regent Street, Rue de la Paix, and Friedrichstrasse, one may dig up almost any Article of Merchandise listed in our own Sunday Papers.

GUIDES—If it is your first ride on the Merry-go-Round, you will ask for a Guide at each Halting-Place. An unexaggerated Replica of the Continental Guide may be

found in any Community. Hunt up a shabby Confidence Man with an imperfect Knowledge of English. Follow him about in a shamefaced Manner and submit weakly to his brazen Dictates, and you will know just how it feels to be nagged through the

Streets of Naples.

COLLECT-ING COINS -This is important. Don't fail to takeinafew pieces of **Bad Money** each day. Preserve as Souvenirs.

USEFUL EMPLOY-MENT OF SPARE TIME -Assuming that the Tourist has foundered himself on Cathedrals, Birthplaces, and Mountain Scenery, and that the packingand unpacking, the lowcomedy Inscriptions on the Post-Cards, &c., &c., do not take up all of his time, and that, at

favored Intervals, he can elude the Guides, what may be regarded as the regular and steady Avocation of the homeless Wanderer?

All courageous Itinerants have the same Finish. After a few heartfelt Days among the Memorial Statues and the Mildew, they are content to put in Hour after Hour gazing blankly at Window-Displays or haggling with fluent Banditti.

Remember it is not necessary to travel

4000 miles in order to loaf in front of Shop Windows or slather the Express Orders on Junk.

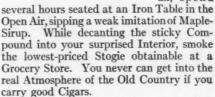
How to go Astray—We come now to the Gay Life. Let us assume that you are

in Paree. although any town in which you are totally ignorant of the Language or the local Devices of the Criminal Element will insure you the same opportunities as a Producer.

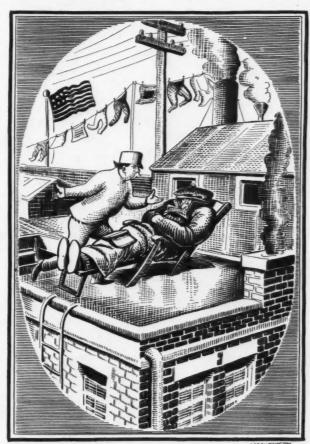
If you will observe the following Routine (remembering that you are to use the Sign-Language at all times), you can garner the same unalloyed Delights in Pittsburgh as if you were in the mad whirl of some place really Wicked.



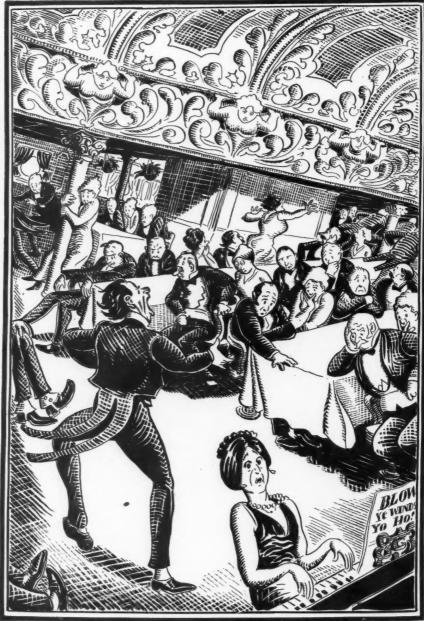
First of all, spend



This Ceremonial of sitting at the Iron Table and watching the crowds move by is



No matter how often he appears, you must inquire of him as follows: "When do you think we will land?"



The Ship's Concert, including the jovial Army Officer who can't sing but does

known as "Getting Into the Café Life," and is about the most tingling experience that awaits the impressionable Pilgrim.

While you are seated at the Table, arrange to have several Human Reptiles in glistening Frock Coats come up and furtively submit for your approval the kind of Photographs that no Man who expects to drop dead would care to have on his Person.

After you have remained at the Iron Table until you feel that you are really getting into a close relationship with the very Soul of the Native Population, you must dine at a famous Restaurant. You can get the same Environment here at home as on the Other Side, because, in either instance, you will be surrounded by loud-talling Yankees.

talking Yankees.

Be sure and demand a Cocktail. I agree with you that the Wise Bird who wishes to shield his early morning Hours from a case of Nervous Quivers will duck on the ruby Concoction, but not when he is on a Foreign Shore and wishes to proclaim his Nativity. It will be a dreadful Affair, curdled with strange Bitters, but you must fly at it, just to sustain a popular Tradition.

Furthermore, in order to exhibit easy Familiarity with the Vintage mysteries, you had better order something puckery and high-priced, with Cobwebs on the outside. Slip in a remark about the "Cuvee," and possibly no one will suspect that for thirty years you have been training on Well Water.

In the Evening you would go to the Teatro. If you want to know how it feels to sit through the Drama far from home, go into any Show Shop, tip the Usher, and sit in the back row wearing Ear-Muffs.

Do not bother with the Opera. All the high-priced Thrushes will be warbling in New York.

As for Cabaret Stuff and sitting next to the Hungarian Noise-Makers until 2 A.M., do you fancy that any Country on the Map can give us Pointers on Disorderly Conduct?

Touring de Luxe—Let us not forget the Motoring. No doubt you have dreamed of spinning through Normandy or surfeiting yourself on the Rural Landscapes of the Shakespeare Country. Be assured that all you can derive from Motoring, either at home or abroad, is an acute Vertigo. Touring in all countries is now done at Top

Speed and is seemingly planned for the entertainment of the Chauffeur. The Passengers go with him to ballast the Car and pay for Tires.

USEFUL HINT—Before I forget it, here is a Daily Exercise which will help to create the Illusion that you are a regular Traveler. Whenever you go into the Street, take with you a Camera, a Rain-Coat, a pair of Binoculars, and a Guide-Book. Shift them frequently without dropping anything.

Homeward Bound—If you will observe the Daily Routine, as roughly indicated, for several weeks, eating Strange Food all of the time, you will be overjoyed when you can go back into your Closet and spread yourself out on the Shelf for the Return Voyage.

At the end of a Week have a suspicious Stranger overhaul your Luggage and regard you as a Smuggler. He will be justi-

fied in doing so.

ADDENDA—Get some Labels and paste them on your Boxes and Bags.

Sort out the Curios and Gimcracks and give them away before they Pall on you.

Hurry to your own Bathroom and the Spring Mattress, and be thankful that you lasted through it.

I almost forgot to add that in taking this Home Treatment you will escape:

The Ship's Concert, including the jovial Army Officer who can't sing but does.

The human Megaphone with an American Flag on his Lapel.

The Fluff who wants a Partner for Bridge. The Monarch of the Seas who has crossed forty-two times.

In conclusion, I don't expect you to follow Directions, even if they are spoken from the Heart.

THE END

When the unhappy Stay-at-Home concluded the silly Document, he knew that the Writer was a cheap Iconoclast with a jitney Intelligence.

He still believed all that he had read in those wonderful Syndicate Letters prepared in the Reading-Room of the Public Library.

Moral: Many are wise to Europe, but few have the Manhood to speak out.

The next New Fable in Slang will be The Fable of What the Best People are not Doing.

Shadows of Flames

A STUDY IN IMPERFECTION

By Amélie Rives

Author of "The Quick or the Dead," "World's End," etc.

Illustrated by George Gibbs

Synopsis—Sophy Taliaferro, a girl from Virginia, has, when the story opens, in 1800, in London, been married over three years to Cecil Chesney, younger brother of Lord Wychcote. Wychcote, who is sickly and unmarried, is devoted to his American sister-in-law. The young wife, however, finds little favor with Cecil's mother, Lady Wychcote, who hates Americans and is also greatly displeased with her able and brilliant younger son because he has flouted the pronounced Toryism of the lamily and become a radical; he has, moreover, spent some time in India and in African exploration against his mother's wishes. Chesney, usually an affectionate husband and father (there is one child, a boy of two years), has become subject to ugly fits of temper, often followed by quite unaccountable illnesses. He declares that these attacks are due to the effects of jungle-fever, and he will have no physician called, depending entirely upon the ministrations of his faithful valet, Gaynor. Before long, the latter comes to Sophy and advises her to see a specialist. She, quite unknown to her husband, consults Doctor Carfew, a celebrated neurologist. He makes it plain that Chesney is a victim of both morphine and cocaine, and recommends a sanatorium, but Sophy knows that Cecil will never consent to this. Although not of that faith, she goes to a Roman Catholic priest who is famous for his advice to people in trouble. Father Raphael bids her do all in her power to save her husband, but in case of failure to take her child and return to her old home.

It is finally decided, after consultation with Lady Wychcote and the family physician, to take Cecil to Dynehurst, the Wychcote estate in the north of England, and attempt a cure with the aid of an experienced nurse. To this plan Chesney, now in fear of Carfew and a sanatorium, consents. But it proves a failure. Chesney has an extra supply of morphine, and when the her of the America's has a bad attack of croup, and the Dynehurst physician orders him to a warmer limited, encounted this begins d

stances on both sides, resolves to speak to him at the first opportunity.

HEN they reached Baveno, the marchesa insisted on getting out and going up to the hotel with Sophy to see that she was given nice rooms. Something about the young woman, all

alone with her little son, went to her heart. The marchesa herself had not been very happy in her marriage. Her fullest life had been lived as the mother of her two boys. Thus, Sophy and Bobby touched her very nearly. Amaldi went up with them. He stayed on the terrace while the two women inspected rooms and interviewed the padrone. Sophy did not come down again.

"She seems quite worn out all of a sudden, poor child," said the marchesa. Without apparently looking at her son, she saw the quick change that came over his face when she said that Sophy seemed worn He said nothing. He made the mechanician sit in the stern, and himself steered the swift little craft all the way to Le Vigne. He talked very little on the way home, chiefly about the farm and the weather. He was afraid it might be going to rain to-morrow.

"Then you'll have to put off your villahunt with Mrs. Chesney," he said. He said this very naturally, pronouncing the name without the least self-consciousness. The marchesa felt that her task was going to be very difficult indeed. She, too, lapsed into silence, now watching the marvelous sky-she was a great lover of stars and clouds-now glancing at her son's dark, nervous hands as they turned the little wheel slightly from time to time. Passionate hands they were. The marchesa had been of a passionate nature herself. Like Socrates, she thanked the gods that time was past, but she remembered. She could feel with Marco as well as for him.

They were a long time on the homeward way, even with the swift launch to carry them. Le Vigne, or the Castello Amaldi, as it was sometimes called, lay on the Lom-

bard shore of the lake not far from Angera. It had been one of the old hunting-lodges of the Amaldi in more sumptuous days. It made a delightful summer home, standing close to the lake shore and surrounded by a farm of some two thousand acres. It was of white stucco with thick, ancient A terrace along the front led, by long, shallow steps, to the lawns and gardens, which reached to the water. Behind, in the buildings enclosing the court, were kitchens, laundry, carpenter shop, stables, and so forth. Big-arched ways led from the cortile into the kitchen-garden and the open country beyond.

When the marchesa had come to Le Vigne as a bride, forty years before, she had regretted that it did not lie in the mountainous portion of the lake, near Stresa. Now she had grown to love this wistful, reedy shore more than any other part of Lago Maggiore. She stepped out in the big wet dock with a sigh of pleasure, and walked across the lawn, stopping to put a spray

of white oleander in her belt.

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Marco and his mother dined on the terrace at a little table set with old Lodi ware. There was a bowl of white oleanders the marchesa's favorite flower—in the center. Its fragile blossoms gave off a perfume strangely heady and spiritual at the same time-a faint, sweet perfume as of blossomed peach kernels.

The dusk came on gradually, spangled with stars and fireflies. All the clouds had

melted from the sky.

"No rain for to-morrow, my dear," said the marchesa, as she and Amaldi sat smoking companionably after dinner, each in a long chair. "I can go villa hunting with your charming friend beyond a doubt."

"Yes; that's good," said Amaldi.

The marchesa glanced at him. He was smoking contentedly, with a very tranquil expression on his face. It was still light enough to see even the colors of flowers quite plainly. The marchesa put her own cigarette back between her lips. Then she took it out and looked at it, smiling.

"You haven't noticed my new splendore, Marco," she said, waving the gold-tipped

cigarette toward him.

"Eh?" he said, as though rousing sud-

"These gilded luxuries," said his mother, indicating the cigarette between her big, handsome fingers.

"Why, Baldi, what swagger!" he laughed, taking in the cigarette. This name of "Baldi," by which both her sons sometimes addressed her, had arisen from the fact that, as a bride, she had arrived in Italy with a severe cold in her head, and had pronounced her new name "Abaldi." Her husband had begun to call her "Baldi" for fun, in the honeymoon days. Later on, the children had taken it up. She associated it more with her boys than with her husband, and liked them to call her so. Only when very serious did they say, "maman."

"Yes; don't you wonder how I came by such gorgeousness?" she now asked.

"I do, indeed. I thought you scorned

such vanities.'

"I do, as a rule, but that dear thing pressed them on me so prettily that I hadn't the heart to refuse. Mrs. Chesney, I mean—she is a dear thing, Marco."

Her son's voice at once became on guard,

as it were.

"Yes; I thought you would like her," he said. "You know I told you so."

"You didn't tell me half, my dear. She is a very unusual woman indeed-girl, I feel like saying. Really she seems amazingly girlish to have been through those bitter experiences you told me of."

"Yes; that does strike one."

The *marchesa* smoked for a few moments. It seemed odd to be smoking Sophy's cigarettes as an aid to what she intended saying, no matter how difficult Marco's extreme reserve might make it.

"Does she seem very éprise with her

husband?" she asked, at last.

"I haven't seen them together more than twice—I couldn't say. I haven't seen much of Mrs. Chesney herself, you know."

"I didn't know," reflected the marchesa; but matters seemed to her all the more serious because of that statement. If she, his mother, could see in a few hours the strong influence that Sophy had upon him, and if this influence had resulted from such a slight acquaintance, then it was more necessary than ever that she should speak. She decided not to follow Mephisto around his bush any longer. She threw away her cigarette and leaned back.

"Caro Marco," she said, "I'm going to do a thing that I've rarely done. I'm going to do it because I think I ought to, though I dislike doing it very much. And I want

you to be indulgent to Baldi-eh?"

Now Amaldi was really on his guard. Something seemed actually to click in his breast. It was the lock of his heart snapping home. It is a way that the heart-locks of some folk have of doing at the least touch. They seem set to so delicate a spring that, while they may on rare occasions open of themselves, they close at the lightest outside touch. His voice was very gentle and courteous as he said,

"Dear Baldi, you know very well that you can speak to me in any way whatever

that you wish."

"Áie!" thought the marchesa. "He's gone under the boat like a pike! What a dear, fine, provoking boy to be sure! He should close up like a clam on such a subject, but it's pretty hard on poor me!"

"Well, then, Marco, I'll come to the point at once," she said, in a frank, practical voice. "But first I must ask you if you don't really think that I've trespassed very little on private ground with you since you've been grown? Even when your marriage was in question, I said nothing, after giving you my honest opinion when you asked for it—isn't this so?"

"Yes, maman; it is perfectly true," said

Amaldi.

This "maman" fixed the marchesa in her opinion that Marco was going to make things as difficult as possible for her. She was no longer his intimate Baldi; she was

the revered maman.

"Very well, dear; I'm glad you admit that so frankly," she continued, taking her courage in both hands, "because it makes me feel that you will be lenient if what I'm about to say jars on you very much. It's this, my son: I want you to be very, very careful about your attitude toward this lovely, unhappy woman. I see real danger for you there, Marco, unless you are on your guard every moment of the time you are with her. A woman feels such things intuitively—and intuition is a very sure force, no matter what skeptics may say of it. I want you to open your mind's eye wide, my dear boy, and look this possibility squarely in the face. Will you?"

Amaldi sat perfectly still. The only sign that he was moved in any way was the cigarette, which went out between his fingers and which he put to his lips, now and then, as if unaware that it was out. His mother waited, rather nervous. Then he

said quietly:

"I was just trying to see exactly what you meant, maman. Do you mean that you fear I may compromise Mrs. Chesney by undue attentions?"

The marchesa felt discouraged, but her

will upheld her.

"Not that alone, Marco," she said firmly, "though that might be one of the consequences of what I fear for you. What I meant, in plain language, since you force me to it, is that you may come to care too much for her. There would be no issue to such a thing, Marco. You must see that for yourself. I do you the honor," she added quickly, "of supposing that your feeling for such a woman would be a serious one."

"Thanks!" said Amaldi. His tone was perfectly respectful, but there was a crisp note in it that hurt his mother. He was, in truth, deeply indignant, not with her but with himself, at the idea that his love for Sophy was so transparently evident to observing eyes, when he had thought it hidden in the utmost depths of his being.

The marchesa, in the mean while, was thinking very hard indeed. She was years in advance of her day in many respects. Grant Allen, in England, had not yet written "The Woman who Did," or George Meredith his theory of trial marriage. Ellen Key was little known. The New Woman was only just learning to toddle between the strong arms of some bold nurses of ideas, who, along with other scientists, were being pronounced anathema maranatha by the Churches of all lands. George Eliot had become Mrs. Cross. Only a few dauntless free-lances, advance-guards of the mighty future army whose members were mostly still in their cradles or even in the womb of time-only these occasionally "did" what the woman in Grant Allen's tale dared to do, and with such piteous consequences. (But then, even the most erring woman is seldom cursed with such a wretch of a child as the Dolly of that story.) These things all being as they were, it is no exaggeration to state that the marchesa was far in advance of her day in some respects. For instance, she believed that a serious union between a man and woman devotedly loving each other—and determined to be true to that love—is as sacred and worthy a thing, as really and wholly a marriage, as any union made by priest or law. The law of one's highest being, she considered

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the highest law of all. To the The marchesa admitted the forsaking of all in marriage of 'true hearts and the world for a great love—except the child bodies, as well as that of true that a woman had borne into the world. minds, she would not admit Marco, despite his luckless marimpediment. But she realized riage, from which, as an Italian, he that for the man and woman of could not with dignity escape-both her day to enter upon such a he and she scorned the idea of his marriage was also to enter upon becoming naturalized in another The massive, a via crucis. country in order to obtain a divorce sometimes crushing weight of there-Marco, she considered free to such a yoke was not to be form a new and serious relationship accepted in any light, joyous if he so desired. They had frankly spirit of newly kindled pasdiscussed the possibility. She, in her fearless, large-minded large-heartedness, had even consented, sion. Over the gateway of that stern temple of Love was written the implacin such a case, to receive the woman able, well-nigh impossible of his choice as his wife. mandate of the Delphic Therefore, it was not the quesoracle-"Knowthyself." tion of the possible irregularity of Moreover, in her view his future relations with Sophy of the question, the man that dismayed her. It was that she did not consider Sophy freeand woman who would even should she leave her husenter on such an engagement must be quite free band or be divorced from him. from certain ties-She had her son. Never would preeminently the she receive as Marco's wife the woman who had deserted her tie binding a mother to her child for him. But then, children. merely glimpsing Sophy as she had done, she felt

"What I meant, in plain language, since you force me to it, is that you may come to care too much for her"

instinctively that she was incapable of such an act.

Remained then only the possibility of a dark tragedy of unavailing love and the

odious quagmire of scandal.

And, thinking as she did, and knowing that her son was well aware of her opinions, this "Thanks!" of Marco's hurt her deeply. It seemed to say, "I am glad that at least you do me that much justice."

It was she, however, who broke the si-

lence that followed.

"My son," she said, rising, "I shall not allude to this subject again. This once I felt that I had to speak—no matter how much I hurt or offended you—only this once——"

"Maman, I beg of you; I beg-" he mur-

mured, in a colorless voice.

"Yes; that I had to do," continued his mother firmly, "for, as I said, there is no issue. Mrs. Chesney has her son. Should you ever care for her, should she ever care for you, her son stands between you. If she were to desert her boy for you, she would not deserve your love. If you wanted her to desert him, you would not deserve hers."

"Maman, I entreat you!" cried Amaldi, springing to his feet. She could see his face, white as silver in the heavy dusk. His brows made a straight line across it.

"I have finished, my son," she said, with dignity. "You will never hear me allude to this again." And she left him.

XXXVII

The finding of a suitable villa for Sophy proved to be quite an undertaking. Three days did the kindly marchesa devote to helping her in this quest. And as they chugged about the lake in the little launch, Sophy grew more and more impressed with the hideousness of the houses that man had thrust upon this lovely nature. Only a few villas, here and there, were simple and attractive in architecture, and these were always old buildings, rather despised by the present Lago Maggiorites.

And the insides of these houses! It seemed to Sophy that if people had pondered day and night for years to invent sordid hideousness, they could not have

succeeded more completely.

She was in despair. She thought she had better remain at the Hotel Bellevue or slip over to the Eden Hotel, in Pallanza.

But the *marchesa* never gave up an idea once she had determined to accomplish it. So, finally, they found in the Villa Clelia, near Ghiffa, what even Sophy admitted

was the very thing.

The villa had been laid out by a Russian who loved rare trees above all things. It ran along the shore on high ground, just back of the road, for about half a mile. There were two houses—chalets—divided by the whole length of the gardens. The Italian family who owned it now lived in the "big chalet"; it was the "little chalet" that Sophy rented for six months for the

sum of one thousand francs. It took her two weeks to get settled-to have the walls whitewashed and to cover the frightful furniture with slips of chintz. She was so busy over this that she had no time to feel lonely, though Amaldi and his mother only came to see her once during that period. The letters from Anne Harding were very encouraging. Bobby looked like a bit of brown bisque, and had already gained in weight. It was wonderful, after the day's bustle, to sit on the broad, flagged terrace that overlooked the lake. Two huge cypresses towered on either side. At the foot of the priestly trees, two oleanders, in full bloom, spread their pinky skirts, like court ladies kneeling in perfumed humility before stern spiritual directors. heady fragrance streamed through the night, stirring vague desires and regrets. The stars swung low plaques of quick gold. The grim Stone of Iron, across the lake, had changed to tourmaline—reddish at one end, dusky violet at the other, as the glow from the lime-kiln at Chaldee lit it to the east and the soft starlight to the west. Yes; this, too, was Italy. And there came to her a strange, elusive sense as of heart-break for sorrows long forgotten when a nightingale began its desperate, sweet cry of passion, forever unfulfilled.

One morning, just as Sophy was beginning to wonder a little sadly why her only friends in Italy seemed to have forgotten her, Luigi, the little Milanese butler,

brought her Amaldi's card.

She ran down to greet him in her whitelinen skirt and blouse, forgetting to take out the oleander flower that Bobby had stuck over her ear as they played together that morning on the terrace. The pink flower with its dark, spiky leaves, thus nestled against her shaded hair, gave her a coquettish, festival look that was delightfully new to Amaldi. His heart quickened. It was hard to keep his eyes steady under the look of frank pleasure with which she met him.

"How nice to see you, Marchese!" she cried, giving him both hands. "I thought you and that dear mother of yours had

quite forgotten me."

"Ma no; si figuri!" murmured Amaldi.
"But it's been a long time—nearly two
weeks," Sophy said, smilingly reproachful.
"You can't think how often Bobby has

asked for you."

She went to the door and called to Miller to bring the child in 'from the garden. Amaldi flushed as she did so, then paled. He had come to regard Bobby with very mingled feelings. As a child, the child appealed to him. As the symbol of division between him and Sophy, it was acutely painful to him to come in contact with the boy. It was strenge to think of Nemesis as a sturdy little lad, but, to Amaldi, Bobby represented the dark goddess.

However, Bobby was too preoccupied with a kitten that the gardener's son had just given him to take much notice of Amaldi. He soon trotted out again, stomach to fat stomach with the little beast, and Amaldi hurriedly explained that his mother had sent the launch to fetch Sophy to Le Vigne for luncheon, if she cared to come.

"I should love to!" she cried. Then she glanced down at herself. "But I hate to keep you waiting—" She hesitated. "I

can't go like this."

"Oh, Mrs. Chesney, why not?" smiled he.
"And could I really come like this?"

"Why, it's the very thing. You will want to see something of the place—won't you?—the gardens and the farm."

"Then I'll just get a hat and a sunshade.

I won't keep you a minute."

"My mother begged that you would bring the boy if you wished to," said Amaldi, as she was rushing off. But she called back over her shoulder:

"Thanks, no! I'm afraid he might get

tired, and fret."

The morning was wonderful—too bright and unveiled for an artist's pleasure, but not for that of mere human beings with youth and joy in their blood. The tramontana was still blowing—a brisk wind it was, straight from the Swiss Alps. The whole lake was affutter with it. The launch sped onward between jets of foam. Peder, the

young mechanician, grinned with the wavelets as an occasional spray-shower flew past him. But Sophy did not mind. Rather she loved it. She had tied a long gray veil over her white beret, and rolled up the sleeves of her nainsook blouse, American fashion. She sat laughing, and catching at the flying foam-caps with her ungloved hand. There was intoxication in this glorious air, so hot with sunlight, so cooled by snow at one and the same time.

Amaldi pointed out different spots that might interest her as they swirled through the excited black-blue water. There, on a flank of the Sasso di Ferro, was an old burial-ground made during the Great Plague. It had never since been used. Sophy had read "I Promessi Sposi." She shivered. She could see the train of gruesome dead-carts arriving at that whitewalled spot on the green mountainside. That tall, obelisk-like stone, pricking from the water at the Sasso's foot, had been a target for the Austrians. Sophy shivered Whenever she remembered the Risorgimento, she hated the Austrians anew. There, to the right, was the Franzosini villa. In old days, the Austrians had had its seigneur tied to wild horses and killed. Opposite, on that green point of land, the big gray ruin was an old Austrian fortress. Don't tell me any more about the

Austrians!" she pleaded.

But, all the same, as they rounded the point of Il Fortino, she fell in love with it. "Oh, what a wonderful place one could make of it!" she cried. "How I should like to own it, and build a dream-palace there!" The trees growing on the top of the old fort fascinated her. "I should leave the trees, I think," she murmured. "Think of having a house with trees on its roof!"

"You would like to live in Italy?" said

Amaldi.

"Yes-yes!"

She caught her breath, holding it with that trick she had when much moved. Amaldi sat gazing back at the gray mass of the Fortino on its lovely, natural lawns. He was there with Sophy in her "dreampalace"—he and she alone. He kept gazing, gazing at the fort as it receded. He did not dare look at her just then.

Out from Stresa they saw some white

sails tilting.

"How lovely! They always remind me of white magnolia petals blown over the

water," Sophy said Amaldi named them to her. The two larger ones had belonged to the Duke of the Abruzzi. The small ones were monotipi—shallow racing boats with centerboards.

"I'm very keen on sailing myself," he said. "I've a nice little sloop. I hope you'll let me take you out in her."

"I should love it! What is her name?"
"I only bought her this spring. I haven't yet named her. She's called the Elisa at present."

Sophy laughed gaily.

"It sounds better in Italian than in English," she said. "But it's a poor name for such a fairy thing as a sailboat."

"Yes; so I think. Italians like to give English names to their boats. It's the mode. If you would rechristen the Elisa for me, I should be very grateful."

"Yes, I will. I've always wanted to have a little yacht of my own and call her the Windflower. You may have that name, if you like it."

Amaldi was delighted.

"I'll go to Stresa and order it to be put on to-morrow," he said. "Thank you so much!"

They passed Santa Caterina, where the miraculously poised stone was still in place at that time.

"I must climb that wonderful cliff some day," said Sophy, gazing up at it.

"I'm at your service whenever you wish to," said Amaldi.

Now the shores grew less steep—ran off into low hills, sparkling with little villages. The horizon of the lake toward Angera was like the sea. Noon came, hushed and breathless. The tramontana had dozed off on its midday siesta.

"How suddenly the wind has fallen," Sophy said, looking in surprise at the silken smoothness of the water which had grown pale as pearl. Then Amaldi showed her a dark-blue line, far away toward Angera.

"That is the inverna—the south wind," he explained. "It always springs up when the tramontana dies away—after twelve o'clock. See—how quickly it is coming!"

Through the soft violence of the south wind, over waters once more blue, the launch sped on to Le Vigne.

XXXVIII

THE marchesa was waiting for them on the terrace. She had seen the launch coming when it was but a little dot, far away toward Belgirate. She gave Sophy a little nosegay of white oleander and stephanotis and kissed her cheek in greeting. Sophy thought what a dear she was, and yet that she might be very stern and awe-inspiring, should she choose to be. She was very thankful indeed that the *marchesa* seemed to like her so much.

Glancing from her to Amaldi, she remembered how he had once said to her in London, "No; I am not the least like my mother." It was true, as far as looks went, yet Sophy felt that there was something very much alike in them, all the same—that latent sternness, perhaps. She felt that Amaldi, also, might be very stern under provocation. She remembered the hard look on his face when she said that a

priest had been kind to her. The marchesa took her up-stairs to her own bedroom to remove her hat and veil. It was a large room, with three windows looking out over the lake. Sophy started. Here again were the three windows in connection with Amaldi. She had not thought of it of late. Now she colored in spite of herself-biting her lip. But the marchesa was pushing back one of the Venetian blinds, which the inverna had blown to, and did not notice. There were no curtains to the windows. The marchesa had a manly love of glare. "It comes from living so long only with boys," she used to say. She detested shaded lamps and candles. The fine old chandelier of wrought iron in the drawingroom always flared in the evening with untempered acetylene gas. Sophy noticed that the marchesa's bed was narrow and

They lunched on the western terrace under a pergola of star-jasmine. Its perfume recalled to Sophy the bastioni and that first nightingale's singing. She felt strangely and rather unquietly happy—as if something were going to happen. But she was very hungry. The homely act of eating steadied her. It was such fun to eat from a plate dappled with little sun-flecks. Everyone had silvery reflections from the white table-cloth playing over their faces. It made Amaldi look pale and strange,

severe, like the cot of a soldier.

somehow.

Sophy thought that, after luncheon, she would be taken to see the farm and gardens, but the *marchesa* said that she must not go out into the sun directly after eating. In-

stead, they went into the big, cool drawingroom, and the *marchesa* taught her a game of double patience. While they were doing this, Amaldi strolled in with his pipe. It seemed odd to Sophy to see him with a pipe; it didn't suit him, somehow. Yet he seemed to enjoy it thoroughly.

"Why don't you lay the tarot cards for Mrs. Chesney, Baldi," he said, standing

over them.

"Isn't he a sly boy," said the marchesa to Sophy, laughing. "He's really in awe of my tarot cards; yet they fascinate him. He's always anxious to have me 'lay' them for some one else—but he positively refuses to have it done for himself."

Sophy was interested at once. Old or young, one always rouses at the idea of

having one's "fortune" told.

The marchesa laid out the quaint cards—a very old pack, with the rich coloring of stained glass. She told Sophy several rather queer things, but she did not tell her all that the tarots said. The marchesa was very superstitious despite her strong intellect. After forty years of Italy, among other things she believed firmly in la fatalità, and la jettatura. She also (though laughing at herself) believed in the prognostications of the tarots.

She swept the cards into a heap suddenly saying that they were "stupidissimo" to-day. But the fact was that "il prete" and "la morte" kept falling together in Sophy's "fortune," and this meant a death near at hand. If she had known of Sophy's broken mirror, she would have been doubly sure this misfortune was hovering over her.

Then she sent Amaldi off to order the pony-carriage. She was going to drive Sophy over the estate, herself. As he went,

she called after him:

"Is your study in order? I want to show Mrs. Chesney the view from the tower before we start."

"I'll send Peder up to report," said Amaldi. His "study" was in the top of a square tower. It was lined with books and maps and pierced by four windows. A heavy, antique table, covered with papers, ran across one side, and on the other was a grand piano. Sophy's eyes went from this to the papers on the table, many of which were manuscript music.

"I didn't know that the marchese composed music," she said, "though I've heard, of course, what a wonderful musician he is." "Marco is even greater as a composer than as a musician," replied his mother, pride in her voice. "The world will hear of him some day. But he's such a student of other things, also, that it rather hampers him, I think. Young as he is, he's already one of the authorities on the history of the Risorgimento; and no one in Italy knows more than he about our architecture and art. He predicts a rising of iconoclasts within a few years—haters of beauty—so he's preparing for them in his own way. He has very original ideas."

Then she broke off suddenly, extremely vexed at her own garrulity on this subject. It was certainly far from her wish to interest this eager-eyed girl in the attainments

of Marco.

"What a fool I am!" she said, within herself, as she led the way from the big table, where Sophy was gazing with respectful admiration at some beautiful architectural designs in aquarelle.

"Did the *marchese* make those lovely drawings?" she asked, as she followed his mother to one of the great windows.

"Yes; he draws quite nicely, I believe," replied the *marchesa*, with some primness.

Sophy felt the change in her manner, but only thought that she had withdrawn her interest from Amaldi's work to the marvelous view that spread below them—all the Lombard plain outrolled like the fecund floor of a vast temple to Ceres whose roof was the blue dome above.

As they recrossed the room on their way back, Sophy's attention was caught by the photograph of a blond youth, strikingly

like the marchesa.

"Oh, is that your other son, Marchesa?" she asked. "What a handsome boy—and

so like you!"

"Grazie mille," said the marchesa, laughing. "Yes, that is Nano—my younger son, Giovanni. He is a good-looking scamp, as you so kindly observed, my dear. Much better looking than Marco—but Marco is our strong one. He has more character in his little finger than that lovable imp."

Again she broke off, biting her lip severely this time. What ailed her? It was like some perverse obsession—this constant harping

of hers on Marco's fine qualities.

"Come, my dear," she said quite sharply; "if we dawdle, the teams will be stabled. I want you to see our white oxen in the late sunlight."

Sophy turned away from Nano's attractive, roguish face, and followed the imperious lady with great meekness. She felt that, for some inexplicable reason, she was getting on the marchesa's nerves. She was very sorry, but examine her conduct as she would, she could not find where she might have transgressed. She looked so subdued and cast down, when they reached the lower hall, that the marchesa, as impulsively kind as she was imperious, turned suddenly and kissed her cheek again.

"Don't mind if I was curt, dear," she said very sweetly. "I suppose it's old age that makes me snappish, sometimes, after

But, at this excuse, Sophy pealed with laughter. She couldn't help it. The marchesa was so far from anything like old age in every respect. The lady was charmed, despite herself, by this spontaneous com-

"The marchesino has gone ahead on horseback, Eccellenza," said the old butler, stepping up as they reached the hall.

"Does he mean your son, by the 'marchesino'?" asked Sophy, frankly curious.

"Yes; the old servants-Carletto here, and Marco's nurse, Nina-were used to calling him the marchesino for so many years before his father died, you know—that they

can't seem to say 'marchese.'"
"Marchesino," repeated Sophy softly. "I like it-it sounds so nice and affectionate. Something like the way our Virginia servants go on calling us 'miss' after we're I'm always 'Miss Sophy' at married.

home-never 'Mrs. Chesney.'"

The marchesa found herself wishing heartily that her guest were "Miss Sophy at home" that very instant-she looked so discouragingly lovable and appealing as she murmured the word "marchesino" in that wistful voice. The marchesa felt fretful again. She began to be afraid that she ought not even to have asked Sophy to lunch-Marco would be always remembering her about the old place now. And yet it was only a bit of the barest civility. No; she did not see how she could have avoided asking her. But she was rather silent during the drive over the estate.

Sophy never forgot her first sight of the big white oxen, four to a plow, sturdily plodding against the westering sun. Their white hides in shadow were pearly blue; where the sunlight glanced along their backs, they

seemed outlined with silver fire. Their great horns gleamed like agate. Their ears, suffused with the sun, showed a lining of Semidivine creatures they dusk-rose. looked, as they moved with calm, majestic patience against the background of earth and sky-gleaming offspring of Europa's Olympian bull, by Hathor, goddess-cow of Egypt.

It was nearly six o'clock when Carletto reported that the launch was awaiting them.

The marchesa had persuaded Sophy to stop for tea, and now she made her accept the loan of a warm cloak. It could be very chilly on the lake at this hour, she saideven in midsummer. Carletto had heaped the launch with baskets of fruit by her orders-dark peaches, and the delicate golden plums called "nespole del Giappone" which cannot be exported. The marchesa came with them to the dock.

"Where is Peder?" she asked rather sharply, as Amaldi got in and held out his hand to assist Sophy. He looked up at his

mother.

"I promised Peder last week that he should go to see his nonna at Belgirate this afternoon," he said composedly. "I lent him the dinghey after luncheon. But I am an excellent mechanician. Mrs. Chesney need not feel nervous."

What was there to say? The marchesa,

at least, could think of nothing.

She stood in silence while Marco pushed off with one of the oars kept in the launch in case of the engine's failing.

Sophy looked up smiling. She waved her hand, kissed it to the marchesa as the launch slowly glided out of the dock into

the open lake.

A thousand thanks!" she "Thanks! called back, her voice sounding strangely clear and sweet over the water. "I shall never forget my first day at Le Vigne."

"What absurdly innocent eyes she has!" thought the marchesa irritably. "A married woman has no business having such innocent eyes as all that."

But she waved her hand in reply, and

called, "Buon divertimento!"

Then she went back to the terrace, and sat with her "sailor's eyes" fixed on the launch as long as it was in sight. The marchesa felt very angry with Marco, with herself, with poor Sophy, with fate. She did not know which she was most angry with-yes, perhaps with Marco.

XXXIX

THE launch rushed straight toward the sunset like some little water-creature magnetized by light. On either side of the wheel, opposite each other, Sophy and Amaldi sat gazing at the gorgeous, cloud-suffused sky. They had both thrown aside their hats. His face had a new, boyish look with his hair thus blown back by the wind. It was still so warm in the mellow glow from the sunset that he had also taken off his coat. Sophy liked his slight figure thus freed of the dark-blue coat. It, too, looked boyish, somehow. pleased her. Sometimes his grave stillness almost made her nervous-as that night on the bastioni. There seemed to be so much at work under the smooth surface.

Now his face looked eager, joyous—the face of one who could be a delightful companion. His eyes seemed to have dismissed

more serious thoughts.

The sun, with disk hidden behind a mass of purple clouds, sent forth vast spokes of light on every side; and this immense; fiery wheel, whose axle was the hidden sun, whose tire the extreme round of pale-blue air, made Sophy cry out:

"There 'tarry the wheels of his chariot'! Apollo's revealing himself to me because

I'm a good pagan!"

"Are you a 'good pagan'?" said Amaldi, smiling. "Then you shouldn't have dealings with the priesthood that have stolen his rays to set round the vessel sacred to another god."

She shook her head at him, smiling too. "No, no; I won't let you quarrel with me to-day. It has all been too beautiful."

"I couldn't quarrel with you," he said, "even if you let me—even if you insisted on keeping a pet priest. Or, yes—then I might be tempted to quarrel—though I'd have no right to."

"Friendship gives rights. We agreed to be friends long ago—in England," answered

Sophy happily.

Then she looked again at the golden

wheel that filled the west.

"The clouds are beautiful—but do you think they mean rain?" she asked rather anxiously.

"So our peasants say," replied Amaldi. "They have a rime that goes:

> "'Sol che varda in dree, Acqua ai pe.'" (A sun that peeps backward, Water over the feet.)

"Oh, I love this dialect. Would it be very hard to learn?"

"But you should learn Italian, not dia-

lect," he said, smiling.

"I should like to know both. I'd love to talk to the people in their own language. Is that very hard to do? Steering, I mean. May I try?"

He showed her how the wheel worked, indicating a white house far away as a point

for her to steer by.

"Oh, how nice! How well she answers—like a little water-horse to a bridle!"

She was charmed to feel how the launch glided this way or that at the lightest touch. They had now reached a part of the lake, near Santa Caterina, where, at this hour, there is no faintest stir of air. The water spread beneath them so still, so clear that it was almost as if they were rushing through a golden vacuum. Only the arrowy silver of the launch's bow-waves showed that the element through which they fled was water and not air. Suddenly, the Intragnola—the land breeze that blows from shore near Intra—met them full. The sky was fast fading.

"Hadn't you better let me get you that cloak?" said Amaldi. As she turned to let him put his mother's big, gray cloak about her shoulders, his heart flashed hot on a sudden. Just so might he be folding a wrap of his mother's about her—if she were his wife. It seemed subtly, wildly sweet to him, somehow, to see her nestling there in that cloak so intimately associated with his mother—with his daily, familiar life.

"She is so sweet—your mother," said Sophy, looking down at the warm folds. "It was so dear of her to think of lending me this cloak. I almost envy you your

mother."

"And—yours?" asked Amaldi softly. "She died when I was very young."

"That is very sad," said Amaldi, but the tone of his voice was better than the most florid words of sympathy.

All at once Sophy started. She had given him back the steering wheel some time ago. She clasped her hands under the

folds of the gray cloak.

"Marchese! Your dinner! How will you get your dinner?" she cried regretfully. "I am so selfish—I had forgotten all about your dinner! There will be nothing—nothing at all for you to eat at—at my villa. I told Luigi not to order dinner—just to have some milk and bread and fruit for me."

Amaldi reassured her, smiling.

"There are dozens of places where I can dine capitally," he said. "The Isola Pescatori—just ahead of us to the left there—that is a famous place to dine. You must go there with us—Baldi and me—sometime—that is, if you'd care to——"

"Oh, I should—of course! But I can't think of anything now but that you'll be hours late for your dinner. It's miles and

miles yet to Ghiffa."

"We shall be there in half an hour—easily," he consoled her. He glanced at his watch. "It's not yet half-past seven."

But Sophy felt very worried. She was essentially the old-fashioned woman where the regularity of masculine meals was concerned. In regard to food, men impressed her as machines that would run down or collapse altogether unless stoked, so to speak, at exact intervals. Women were flightier, more happy-go-lucky creatures when the solemnities of eating were in question. She had been thoroughly grounded in this conception of the matter by her husband. Amaldi guessed as much.

"My dear lady, if only you could know how often I make a meal off of rye bread and cheese when I'm out for a day's sailing!" he said. "Really, my dinner hasn't the gigantic importance for me that your

kindness imagines."

He spoke rather stilted English, sometimes, when he was serious, as now, but Sophy loved it, because he was trying to make her feel less self-reproachful.

"It's very, very good of you, Marchese, to want to make me feel less dreadfully selfish," she now said. "But"— her tone was mournful—"these hours on the water have made me dreadfully hungry. So I can imagine what you are feeling."

Amaldi laughed, but the next moment he stopped laughing rather abruptly. The engine had begun to slow down, began to

run irregularly.

"Why—what's happened?" said Sophy.
"That's what I'm going to see now,"
replied Amaldi. His voice sounded worried. He hastened to add, "There's not the

slightest danger, of course."

He stopped the engine, and the launch, as though fast asleep, rocked slightly on the irised ripples. The stoppage made them suddenly aware of the intense, soft, evening stillness. It pressed in upon them—a dream, a spell. From Laveno came the

sound of bells etherealized by distance sweet, serious, melancholy, echoed in faint and ever fainter tones by the bells of other villages more distant still.

They sat listening for a moment before Amaldi went aft to examine the machinery. Sophy came and sat near while he worked.

When he found that the throttle-valve was leaking badly, he did not at once say so. It was so intensely sweet and homely to be pottering there, over the cranky engine, while Sophy crouched beside him, wrapped in that familiar gray cloak.

He had obeyed a certain glowing obstinacy which was the basis of his nature in thus arranging to be alone with Sophy for these two hours. He had little spurts of acquiescence to the opinions of others, sometimes, which always ended by dying down like fitful flames upon those embers of obstinacy which formed the still hot, basic strength of his nature. It could hurt no one, he had thought—her, least of all—if he secured for himself the subtle, exquisite, desired pain of two isolated hours alone with her.

"I wish I could help. Can't you find what it is?" Sophy asked anxiously, as he

still fumbled with the machinery.

"Yes, yes; it's a valve." He stood up, frowning in perplexity. "I shall have to row," he said. "I'll make for Taroni's—the shipyard—where it can be quickly repaired."

"Then it won't take long?" she asked.
"Oh, no; I shall look out for a boat that

may give us a tow in."

He drew out the two oars, and, standing up, began to row fisherman-fashion. Some moments went by.
"Can't I help—please?" asked Sophy.

"Thanks; but the boat is too heavy."
"I wish I could help in some way," she said regretfully.

"You do," he said, "by being so very kind and patient about it. It's an abomi-

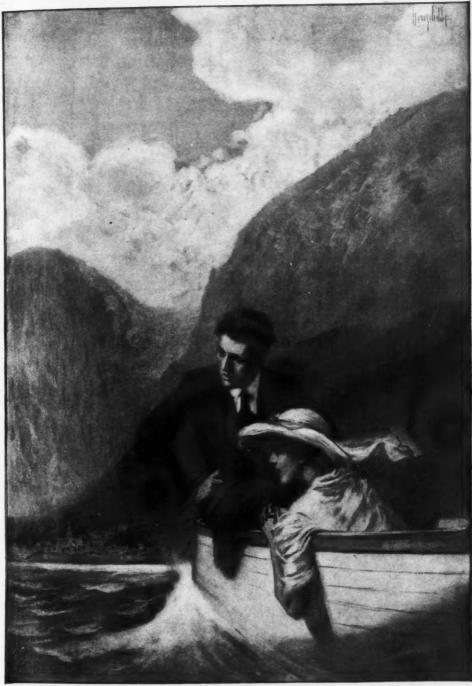
nable thing to happen.'

"Oh, no; I don't mind it—not the least," said Sophy, "if—if it won't take too long."

Amaldi was terribly upset, though he did not show it. He was doubly vexed, because he did not know what Sophy might be thinking of him. When she said in that wistful tone, "If it won't take too long," he replied with a note of sharpness in his voice, very like his mother:

"Why? Do you think your servants will

grow anxious about you?"



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There was intoxication in this glorious air, so hot with sunlight, so cooled by snow at one and the same time

"No; I told them to go to bed—that I didn't know exactly when I'd be back. It's only—" She stopped, then added quaintly, "I seem to be so dreadfully hungry

all of a sudden!"

Amaldi leaned on his oars and laughed out. The relief was so great. Then selfreproach overcame him. How could he have thought, for an instant, that her clear, simple nature could harbor unworthy suspicions of anyone? At the same instant, he had a veritable inspiration. He would not have dreamed of suggesting it to an Italian woman. They had such totally different ideas of such things-such tiresomely fixed opinions of the relations between the sexes. But Sophy was an American-different-how refreshingly and admirably different American women could be he knew from his intimacy with his own mother. Still leaning on his oars, he looked eagerly down at her, as she sat there muffled in his mother's cloak, her face wistful with the frank yearning of healthy hunger.

"I'll tell you what we can do—if you approve," he said. "The Isola Pescatori is just over there to our left. I could row there in half an hour. We could land, have an excellent dinner, and, while we were eating it, I could get some one to take the boat over to Taroni's and bring it back. Would you care to do that—since you're so

hungry?"

"Oh, what fun! I should love it!" she cried, without an instant's hesitation.

Amaldi could have kissed her feet. He was not demonstrative, even as a lover, but he could gladly have kissed each of Sophy's slim white shoes, because of her taking him in this way—for so beautifully "thinking no evil."

"Vivo Diot" he cried, like a boy. "I shall have the joy of introducing you to tenca in carpiung and fritura di pesce

persico!"

Sophy said that this sounded thrilling, and made her hungrier than ever.

"Good," he exclaimed; "one ought to carry a good appetite to the Isola Pescatori!"

Amaldi had been rowing a good while. It was now after eight. The purplish dusk was velvet overhead, and silken smooth below. Stresa, to the left, and Pallanza, far away to the northeast, fretted the twilight with points of orange. The Intragnola brought the scent of wet grass and flowers across the water. A fisher-boat overhauled

them. Amaldi hailed it, asking to be towed.

Soon the launch was sidling through the water in the wake of the black, flat-bottomed boat, and the wind now brought them the raw, oily smell of fresh fish. Amaldi had seated himself near Sophy. The cloak slipped from her shoulders, and he put out his hand to replace it for her. His hand met hers. He felt all his body sing with this light touch like the plucked strings of a violin.

Night was drawing close. Between the scudding clouds, stars flitted in and out like fireflies. There was the soft, orange glow from a rising moon behind the Sasso di Ferro. Its huge, crouching bulk seemed

steaming with phosphorus.

Now they were under the lee of the little island. Sophy saw the clustered homes jutting above her, and a wide terrace, brightly lighted, under its pergola of grapevines. People were eating there at little tables. She could see their heads above the wall. They had dined already, for it was fruit and nuts that they were lifting to their mouths. It seemed droll to see these greedy heads peeping above the terrace. She laughed softly.

"It is jolly, isn't it?" said Amaldi.

"Yes; I—I am happy," she said, with a sort of surprise in her voice. "I can't get used to this—to Italy."

XL

THEY got out on the rough-stone quay, Amaldi grasping Sophy's hand firmly to steady her as she stepped over the side of the launch. And again the touch of her cool fingers sent that sweet dazzle through him. The fishermen agreed to tow the launch over to Taroni's and bring her back when the slight repairs had been made.

"You'd better take my arm. This bit of beach is very rough," said Amaldi. She put her hand on the arm he offered. She was used to Cecil's huge muscles. This arm felt strangely slight yet steely. It seemed delicate yet strong, like Amaldi's face. They climbed a little stone stairway and found themselves on the terrace. It was very gay, with electric lights hung from the lattice of the pergola. Half the terrace was uncovered. Sophy hoped that they would sit at one of the tables out there under the violet-blue, star-freckled sky. The padrone

came forward, followed by one of his daughters. He was a much-traveled man—had been a head waiter in Vienna, London, New York. The daughter had a sweet, long, pensive face under a big black pompadour.

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He greeted Amaldi with respectful effusion. How well the marchese looked! He had not seen the marchese for some years, but truly the marchese seemed to grow younger. And was this the signora marchesa del marchese? He had the honor to felicitate—

"Babbo! Babbo!" whispered the daughter. She had caught hold of her parent's coat. She gave it two agitated but peremptory jerks as she spoke. Her "babbo" had been so long away from home that he did not realize that the young marchese's "signora" was most unlikely to be with him. The padrone retreated backward saying: "Pardon! Pardon!" confusedly.

Amaldi, also, was painfully embarrassed. He would have much enjoyed bustling the effusive padrone over the terrace into the lake. When he turned to Sophy, the flush still on his face, he found her consumed with silent laughter. Her eyes, looking at him over the handkerchief that she had pressed against her mouth, were full of mirthful He, too, began to laugh. tears. laughed and laughed, like two children caught in mischief. But she was so adorable, giggling in this way like any madcap girl, that he longed to snatch her in his arms and hold her tight-tight-till he felt her laughter die out on his breast. His head swam a little.

"Where will you sit?" he asked, in rather a muffled voice.

Sophy thought this the result of laughter. She was charmed that he could laugh so heartily over a bit of nonsense. He had always seemed a little severe in his reserve. Now she felt much nearer to him. One who could laugh like that would be a perfect companion. And, oh, how long it was since she herself had laughed in that deliciously foolish, light-hearted way! She chose a table close to the edge of the terrace, near a big terra-cotta vase filled with scarlet geraniums.

The meal that followed was veiled with poetry for them both—for Amaldi, because he loved her; for Sophy, because she loved Italy. They were also very hungry, and it is odd how it increases sympathy for two

young and hungry people to eat together. Sophy felt that she had known Amaldi a long, long time when they rose from the little iron table on the terrace.

The launch had not yet returned, so they went for a stroll through the village. A narrow, very crooked street ran back of the albergo. They followed it to the left, and came out upon a rocky shore. The moon had risen as they dined. Its tranced splendor, breaking over them again as they emerged from the dark street, had something panic in its beauty.

"It is like cold fire—it burns," said Sophy breathlessly. She stood gazing at the great languid moon that had lain her shining breast against a cloud as though weary with her own splendor. Her reflection on the lake was not silver but golden—the water fluttered with it as with blown flakes of flame.

From the terrace they had left came the sound of mandolins and concertinas and a boy's voice singing "Margherita." Amaldi winced, but Sophy held up her hand and listened, smiling. To him, it was merely an old, every-day nuisance, until he saw that it pleased her; to her, it was just another bit of Italy. When it was over, she said coaxingly:

"I know it's tiresome, and you disliked it
—but I loved it! It's all new—charming!"

"Shall I fetch him and have him sing more for you?" asked Amaldi meekly. Nothing could have been a greater proof of his love for her. But she said, "No;" that it was the distance that made it so delightful.

They walked entirely round the little island, passing under great archways where the fishers' nets were drying, gazing, charmed, at the picturesque huddle of houses, whose gay tints shone clear in that amazing refulgence of the Italian July moon.

There was a grassy campus on the northern end of the island, set with big linden trees. They stood for some moments in silence under the soft seething of the breezestirred leaves. And, suddenly, Sophy had again that sense as on the bastioni at Milan, of Amaldi's being close to her in some occult way—almost as if he could withdraw from his body like an Eastern yogi—and touch her with his subtler essence. She took a few quick steps—this feeling was so strange. She wanted to get away from it.

"What is the time?" she asked, her voice a little hurried. "I'm afraid it's very late."

Amaldi consulted his watch by the moon-

light.

"Only a quarter to ten," he said quietly. Sophy was walking on ahead of him. "And how long will it take to get to my

villa?" she asked, over her shoulder.
"About half an hour—we turn to the

"About half an hour—we turn to the right here," he ended, coming up to show

her the way.

They were again in the little crooked streets. They passed the village church. Sophy hesitated, then entered. He followed, and they stood side by side, glancing about them at the touching, tawdry inte-Three peasant women and a man were kneeling on the dark benches. The women glanced up at the strangers, frankly curious-only the man kept his anxious, faded blue eyes on the image of the Virgin that, life-sized and brightly tinted, held out compassionate hands toward the supplicant. His lips moved rapidly, without ceasing. Sophy imagined that he was pleading for the life of some one dear to him-a little child, maybe. She just touched Amaldi's arm, and they went out.

"I'm afraid it jarred on you—my going in there," she said softly, looking up into his face in the gloom of the narrow street. "But the places where the poor worship always draw me—they seem so real. I can't explain—but they move me deeply."

"I understand," said Amaldi. "It is so

with me, too,"

"But I thought—" She broke off.

"The faith of the simple-hearted is always moving," he said. "It isn't the faith of the people I question. It is the good faith of the Church toward the people."

"I see," Sophy said thoughtfully. Then

she turned to him again.

"You are so much more serious about it than the other Italians I've known who were anticlerical. They seemed just to shrug their shoulders over it—took it half

laughingly."

"A man shouldn't take it with a shrug or half laughingly that the women of his country are under the thumb of a hierarchy," said Amaldi, with some vehemence. "There is a great hour coming for women all over the world—a time of enlargement, of freedom—yet a true Italian can't wish this for his countrywomen as long as their fuller

power would be just another weapon in the hands of priests."

"You look far ahead, Marchese. Your mother told me to-day of another movement that you foresaw—something about

'iconoclasts.'"

"Yes," he said; "lands that have been saturated with beauty, as Italy has, must precipitate some reactionary movement sooner or later. First, we have the mere inertia of saturation, the numbness to beauty, the incapacity to produce or even appreciate it—see these ugly houses that have distressed you so much. Next, there will come the positive reaction—the rise of the image-breakers. What queer name they will call themselves by, I can't divine—but I can forefeel their rising."

Sophy walked on in silence for a moment. "It must be wonderful," she then said, "to have such a country as Italy for your birthright, and to love it as much as you do."

"Yes; I love it," said Amaldi. But he was thinking how much more than any

country he loved her.

When they reached the terrace again, the padrone came rather timidly forward to say that the launch had returned from Taroni's. Signorina Rosalia hovered near all the while her babbo was saying this. Evidently she was still nervous over his faux pas of an hour ago. She kept glancing quickly from Amaldi to Sophy with her soft, ingratiating black eyes. When they left, she accompanied them down to the little quay.

With Sophy and Amaldi aboard, the launch swiftly backed away from Isola dei Pescatori and spun round toward Pallanza.

"Buona sera, Signora! Buona sera, Signor Marchese!" called the padrone's daughter in her high, fluting voice. She stood on the little quay in the moenlight till they were some distance out upon the lake. "Gli amanti; gli amanti!" she was thinking sentimentally. She stood there thrilled with the romance that she felt rushing away from her into the ecstatic moonlight. Romance had vanished into the moonlight. This was reality.

And out there, in the soft magnificence of the summer night, Sophy and Amaldi sat silent. They felt that unearthly sense of exhilaration that comes from being close to the prow of a boat speeding low on the water; they were so intimately breast to breast with the vastness of air and lake.

Sophy leaned toward Amaldi suddenly.



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The meal that followed was veiled with poetry for them both—for Amaldi, because he loved her; for Sophy, because she loved Italy

"Need we go quite so fast?" she said. "It seems dreadful to hurry through such

beauty."

Her obvious entire faith in him gave him joy and pain at the same time. If she had felt one hundredth part for him what he felt for her, she could not have suggested so simply a thing that meant their being longer together.

"I was just thinking that, too," he said.
"The launch isn't meant for such a night as this. She's made for the hurry-scurry

of catching trains and steamers."

As he talked, he reduced the speed of the engine. Thus checked, the boat chugged gently through the listless water, as though

glad to dawdle pleasantly.

They had passed Pallanza, and were running near enough the shore to see the ghostly loveliness of white roses and oleanders pouring above the walls of villa gardens. Where the shore was wild and overgrown, tangles of honeysuckle showered them with its reckless, voluptuous fragrance. Now and then a flower of saffron light glowed among the thick trees.

"It seems wicked to go to sleep on such a night as this," said Sophy, after a long silence. "I think I shall stay all the rest

of it on my terrace."

"Yes; one feels like that," replied Amaldi.

"And I thank you so, so much, Marchese, for your delightful idea—about our dining at Isola Pescatori—do I say it right?"

"Quite right."

"I never enjoyed anything more—never in all my life. I shall never forget it—or this wonderful night."

"Nor I," said Amaldi.

Now they had passed Intra. The dark, thickly massed foliage of the Villa Clelia came into view.

"Oh, why should such lovely hours have to end—when they need not?" complained Sophy. "I hate convention when it lops off such hours as these, like a grudging old Procrustes. Don't you hate the sheer tyranny of convention, Marchese?"

"Indeed, yes!" said Amaldi.

Glancing back at their evening together as he spoke, Sophy thought that he had been unusually taciturn. He was not a talkative man, but it really seemed to her, now that she thought of it, that he had been almost oddly silent most of the time. She

wondered if he were worried about something. She hated to think this. She felt sure that he would not worry over trifles.

As they drew near the little wharf, straddling like some quaint water-insect in the ripples, she fixed on him her eyes so mysteriously dark in her moonlit face.

"Marchese," she said, "I—I feel as if something were troubling you. Whatever it is—I—am sorry. We are friends, you know, Marchese. Don't think me prying, or—forward to say this, will you? It is only that I know so well what it means to be—oh—to be—anxious—"

She paused, looking at him wistfully. "Dear lady—" began Amaldi. Then he, too, paused. "You touch me very deeply,"

he ended, in a low voice.

She was silent—troubled and distressed herself for the pain that she now saw plainly in his quiet, pale face. But there was nothing that she could say. High up above the thirty-foot retaining wall, the "little chalet" was pouring forth a stream of light from its open door. The faithful Luigi was evidently sitting up for her. Yes—there he came, trotting swiftly down the pathway.

Amaldi had stepped upon the wharf. He held out his hand to her. Luigi ran up and steadied the launch while she got out. Sophy was close to Amaldi on the narrow plank of the wharf. She left her hand in his a moment, looking at him earnestly.

"Thank your mother for me, please, Marchese," she said gently, "for the lovely day she gave me, and for her cloak."

She slipped it from her shoulders as she spoke and put it, all warm with herself, into Amaldi's arms. He shivered as he felt the warmth of the folds under his hands. She went up the little pathway, followed by Some one came from the trees to meet her. Amaldi heard her exclaim: "Why, Tilda, naughty girl—I told you to go to bed!" She turned and waved her hand to him as she entered the doorway in the terrace wall. The clock in the campanile of San Maurizio, on the hill above, began slowly striking midnight. Amaldi stood until it had finished, then started the launch's engine. He sat with one hand upon the wheel, the other grasping the folds of the gray cloak. Suddenly he bent and pressed his face upon it. It was still warm, and this warmth gave forth a faint scent of citron.

The next instalment of Shadows of Flames will appear in the June issue.

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		Dr. Frank Crane Vincent Aderente		60
His Last Letter (Poem) Decoration by	Ву	Ella Wheeler Wilcox . Vincent Aderente		62
The Man-Screen An article that every employer and employee will want to read Photographic illustrations by				64
The Stage To-Day				67
Paying Up Oneself	Ву	George J. Whelan		699
The head of a great corporation tells of the business man's highest reward Photographic decoration by		Lejaren A. Hiller		
SERIAL STO	RI	ES		
The Little Lady of the Big House .	Ву	Jack London		62
In which the most characteristic type of American is seen in the making Illustrated by		Howard Chandler Christy		
Athalie	Ву	Robert W. Chambers .		68
A wonderful girl finds that her waiting has not been in vain Illustrated by		Frank Craig		
Shadows of Flames		Amélie Rives George Gibbs	٠	720
SHORT STO	RII	ES		
A Daughter of New York Ottie and her troubles will make a big hit with every reader Illustrated by	Ву	Owen Johnson Harrison Fisher		61
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Sandbo Starter 64	Goerz Lenses	Evans School of Cartooning . 31
	Premo Camera 63	Federal School 30
Banking and Investment	Seneca Camera	Funk & Wagnalls
Babson Statistical Organization . 90	Cigars, Tobacco, Etc.	Hopkins, Earl 30
Citizens' Savings & Trust Co 91		Illinois College of Photography . 29
Dellenbarger, C. E 101		International Corresp. Schools 97
Pease Mfg. Co 98	Lucky Strike Tobacco 107	Landon School of Illustrating 31
Volusia Develop, Co 98	Omar Cigarettes 81	Language Phone Method 30
•	Riz La Croix Papers 86	La Salle Extension University . 69-80
Books and Periodicals	Velvet Tobacco 55	Lewis, Geo. A
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Review of Reviews		
Shuman & Co., Geo. L	Amer. College of Mechano-Theraphy 12	Food Products
Thompson Co 10-14	Anderson Shorthand Typewriter . 31	rood rroducts
	Atlas Pub. Co	Barrington Hall Coffee 108
Building and Construction	Blackstone Institute 12	
	Bryant School for Stammerers 30	Campoon Soups
Alabastine Co 94	Chautauqua School of Nursing . 31	Esvalis 2110 Blid Stout
Cabot Shingle Stains 67	Chicago Corresp. School 31	Listerated Pepsin Gum 68
Harris Bros. Co 90	Chicago Corresp. School of Law . 31	National Biscuit Co 109
Lewis-Built Homes 94	Chicago Examiner School Bureau . 14	Postum
Pratt & Lambert Varnishes 85	Chicago Dly. News School Bureau. 30	Shredded Wheat
Sherwin-Williams Paints 87 Standard Stained Shingle Co 95	Christensen School of Music 12	Stewart Food Co 100
	Columbia Corresp. College 31	Swift & Co 3rd Cover
Stillwell House Plans 64 Yoho Bungalow Plans, Jud 99	Cortina Academy of Languages . 31	
Tono Dungatow Plans, Jud 99	Cosmopolitan Educ. Club 65-101	Whitman's Candy

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	De Roy & Sons, Jos 93 Elgin Watches 61	Iver Johnson Arms & Cycles 58
Lashneen Co 100		Koban Mfg. Co
Morley Co	Harris Goar Co	Mead Cycle Co
Morton Co., T. B	Loftis Bros. & Co 65	Michigan Steel Boats 98-105
	Maher & Grosh Knives	Mullins Boats
Tables massimistres	Nagle Re-Blade Knife 95	N. W. Motor Co
Sanatogen	Trugic are areas	Old Town Canoe 101
Walter, Dr. J 100		Palmer Motors and Launches 101
	Tiffany & Co 1	Ross Rifle
Way, Geo. P	Miscellaneous	Vitalic Bicycle Tires
Willard, Dr. F. W 69		Vitalic Bicycle Tipes
House Furnishings	Amer. Telephone & Tel. Co 110 Barton, Hiram 64	Toilet Articles
Brooks Furniture	Classified Advertising	
Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co 71	Cosmopolitan Print Dept 66	Baldpate Hair Tonic 92
Burrowes Co., E. T 98	Cosmopolitan 64-80	Durham-Duplex Raxor 91
Come-Packt Furniture	Gregory, J. F	Carmen Complexion Powder 93
Gilbert & Bennett Screening 84	Hanson-Bennett Mag. Agency 98	Jap Rose Talc Powder 102
Ideal Fireless Cookstove 66	Japan Seed Co 98	Lyon's Tooth Powder 90
Karpen Furniture		Marinello Co
Kathodion Bronze Works 99		Mulhens & Kropff 97
Kroehler Davenport 89	Mills, M. F	Odorno
Monroe Refrigerator 90	National Spawn Co 101	Pebecco Tooth Paste 96
Simplex Ironer	Musical Instruments	Pompeian Massage Cream 65
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Vantine & Co	Lyon & Healy 101	Woodbury's Facial Soap 57
Wallace Electric Lamp	Victor Talking Machines 32	
Weis Furniture		Travel Resorts, Etc.
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White Frost Refrigerator 67		Delaware & Hudson Lines 101
	All Makes Typewriter Exchange . 65	Cunard Line 100
Household Supplies	Amer. Writing Machine Co 98	White Pass. & Youkon Route 99
	Babson Statistical Organization . 90	White I also, or I can on I care
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Valentine Varnishes	1 - F G	Chalmers Porosknit Underwear . 59
White Tar Bags 96	Amer. Engine Co 98	Fuld & Hatch Underwear 104
	Arrow Bicycle	Florsheim Shoe 65
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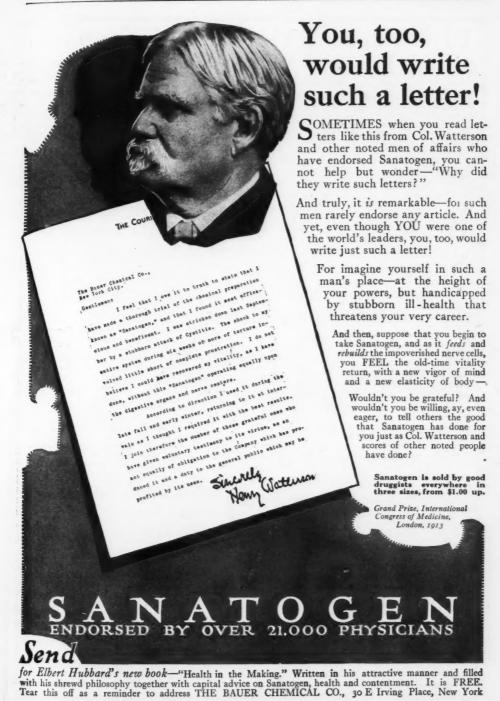
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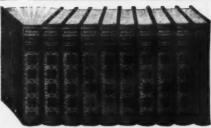
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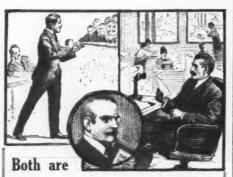
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Power of Will

Why is this man master? He is unarmed. The lion has the physical strength to tear him to shreds his mouth is watering, yet he dares not. He is cowed—cowed by the man's POWER OF WILL





Partial List of Contents

The Law of Great Thinking. The Four Factors on which it depends. How to develop analytical

power. How to think "all around"any

power.
How to think "all around"any subject.
How to think "all around"any subject.
How to throw the mind into deliberate, controlled, productive thinking.
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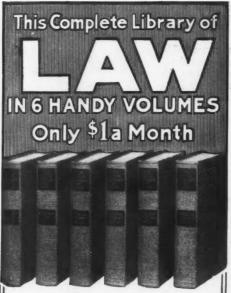
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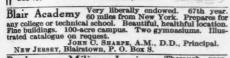
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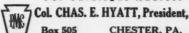
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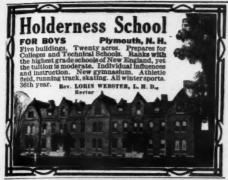
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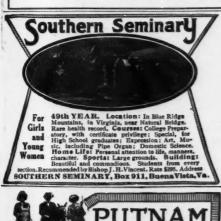
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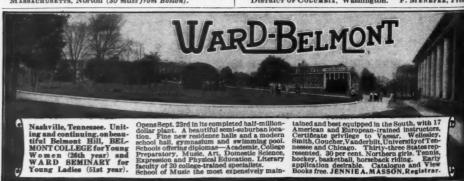
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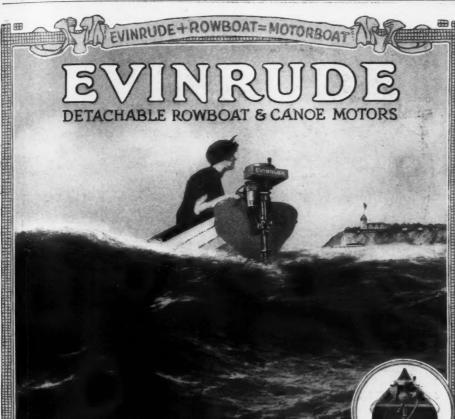
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"It's just like this—I welcome the man who insists on seeing the B. V. D. Red Woven Label on Underwear. It shows me that he wants well-made, full-value, satisfaction-giving merchandise, and it shows him that I sell that sort.

"No sir, I never substitute. It's 'penny wise and pound foolish.' You find out you didn't get the utmost for your money, and you don't come back. Then—where do I come in?"

On every B. V. D. Undergarment is sewed

This Red Woven Label



(Trade Mark Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. and Foreign Countries)
Firmly insist upon seeing this label and firmly
refuse to take any Athletic Underwear without it.

B, V. D. Coat Cut Undershirts and Knee Length Drawers, 50c. \$1.00 and \$1.50 the Garment. B. V. D. Union Suits (Pat. U. S. A. 4-30-07) \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$3.00 and \$5.00 the Suit.

The B. V. D. Company, New York.



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No Boiling-Charming Flavour!

A scant spoonful of the powder stirred in a cup of hot water-and you have

INSTANT **POSTUM**

quick as a wink!

It is regular Postum reduced to soluble form, with a snappy, Java-like taste, but-like regular Postum-free from the harmful coffee-drug, caffeine.

The effects of caffeine poisoning from coffee drinking show in various ways, but always "there's the cause" which must be removed before relief can come.

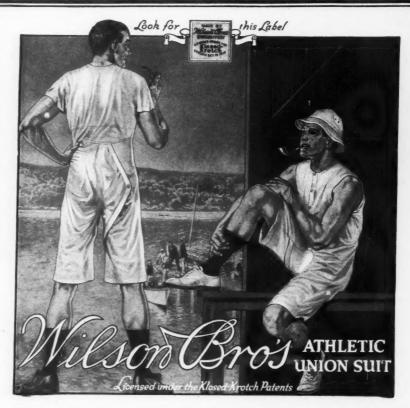
Some go so far they can't get back, but there's a vast army of sensible ones who have made personal test, and have regained comfortable health by quitting coffee and using Postum.

It's a fine thing to be well and have body and brain work in harmony, without interference from coffee or any other drug.

A ten days' trial will show any coffee drinker

"There's a Reason" for POSTUM

Grocers sell both kinds.



THIS is the union suit of perfected comfort—made so by the patented closed crotch and by fabrics that are soft and cool to the skin.

Loose fitting, but not clumsy. Seat opening cut generously full for greatest convenience. The crotch is just a single smooth thickness of fabric of the same material as garment. No seams to break, bind or chafe.

For the man who desires the utmost comfort and coolness in summer under-

wear, who dreads the feeling of closefitting undergarments, a Wilson Bros. Athletic Union Suit meets every requirement.

Made in all the desirable tub-tested fabrics—sleeveless and half sleeves; knee and three-quarter lengths—\$1.00 and up for men; 50c and up for boys.

Sold by retailers who desire to give the greatest value for your money and thereby win your permanent trade.

Other furnishings bearing the Wilson Eres mark of quality include Shirts, Gloves, Hosiery, Suspenders, Neckwear, Handkerchiefs, Pajamas, Nightshirts, etc., each line measuring up to the exceptional standard which this house has ever maintained.

If your dealer does not carry these goods, write us and we will tell you how to get them.

Wilson Bros-Chicago

azine



A Word to Those Learned in the Law

Right an' wrong's so close together, That those "learn-ed in the law" Know the line that runs betwixt 'em Ain't an easy one to draw. Ef the co'te please, men are human; So it can't be very far From the judge's bench, I reckon, To the pris' ner at the bar. Heed the counsel of yo' pipe Judge, Let the kindness it imparts Temper Justice found in law books With mercy found in hearts.

PERHAPS you, too, turning the pages of some law book, have chanced upon the gray ashes that fell trom some "studious" pipe.

Shall we say that the points of the law were seen less clearly for the smoke that arose from its well-seasoned bowl?

Shall we deny the inspiration of good tobacco its share of the credit in deciding some fine point of law?

And, perchance, those ashes once were full of the friendliness that Nature puts into VELVET.



And who knows but what one of those slowburning, fragrant pipes of VELVET gave Justice an opportunity to lift her bandage, and to brush aside a tear of human sympathy?

VELVET, the Smoothest Smoking Tobacco, Kentucky's Burley-de-Luxe, with an aged-inthe-wood mellowness, comes in

10c Tins 5c Metal-Lined Bags

One Pound Glass Humidors

Liggett & Mysre Tobacco Co.
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Air and water are most efficient and cheapest natural cleansers. Modern science has designed perfect apparatus that permits the housewife to bring to her service the fullest benefits of these natural elements. We present to you here a guaranteed electrical device for washing with air—and one for washing with water—both made with the skill and quality which characterize the many household devices bearing the name—

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Vacuum Cleaner

This is a new model, small and light, yet so designed that the full power of air is used. The experience of 30 years of motor and suction-fan making, by manufacturers of international reputation, is embodied in every part. The rigid frame, different from the usual "broom-handle" design, makes handling easy and provides for hanging away in a closet when not in use. The price, \$32.50, includes an extension noz-

zle for cleaning under furniture.

Washer and Wringer

This newest, safest and most thorough laundry outfit is sold and guaranteed by the world's largest distributors of electrical supplies. The motor is specially designed and of ample power, yet consumes little current. The driving mechanism is entirely enclosed. The wringer is reversible and has a patented safety release. The revolving cylinder sends the hot, cleansing suds through every bit offabric without injury to delicate laces.

Both of these labor-saving cleansers can be used in any home where there is electric light. Write for descriptive booklets, "The Home Sanitary" and "Sunny Monday," mentioning the name of your dealer. Ask for Booklet No. 421-G.

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EQUIPMENT FOR EVERY ELECTRICAL NEED gazine



Whatever is keeping you from having the charm of "a skin you love to touch"-it can be changed

Too often we stand back from our mirrors, give our complexions a touch or two of the mysterious art that lies in our vanity cases and-congratulate ourselves that our skins are passing fair.

If we never came under any closer inspection than we do in our own mirrors, this method would be well and good.

Go to your mirror now and examine your skin closely. Really study it! Find out just the condition it is in.

Whatever the trouble is, you can make your skin what you would love to have it. Like the rest of your body, your skin is continually and rapidly changing. As old skin dies, new forms. This is your opportunity. ment given here. It will free your skin every day of the tiny old, dead particles and keep the new skin so active that it gradually takes on the clearness, freshness and charm of "a skin you love to touch."

Use this treatment once a day

—preferably just before retiring. Lather your washcloth well with warm water and Woodbury's Facial
Soap. Apply it to your face and distribute the lather
thoroughly. Now, with the tips of your fingers work
this cleaning, antiseptic iather into your skin, always
with an upward and outward motion. Rinse with warm
water, then with cold—the colder the better. Thenfinish by rubbing your face for a few minutes with a
piece of ice.

You will feel the difference the first time you use this treatment. Use it persistently and in ten days or two weeks your skin should show a marked improvement—a promise of that greater clearness, freshness and charm which the daily use of Woodbury's always brings.

A 25c cake of Woodbury's is sufficient for a month or six weeks of this treatment. Tear out the illustration of the cake shown here and slip it in your purse as a reminder to stop at your druggist's or toilet counter and get a cake today.

Write today for week's-size cake

For 4c we will send a cake of Woodbury's Facial Soan large enough for a week of this treatment. For 10c, samples of Woodbury's Facial Soan, Facial Cream and Powder. Address The Andrew Jergens Co.

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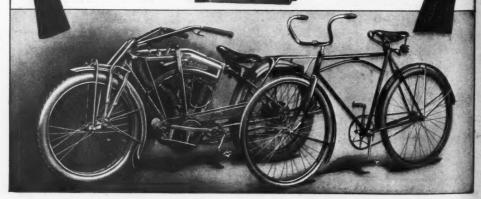
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ElginWonder Tales



Fell twice with Birdman and never dropped a Tick

"SPEAKING of Elgin Watches, I think mine had some exceptionally rough usage. In the spring of nineteen ten, we (watch and I) landed in the Hudson River; the engine stopped, but the Elgin kept running, and on Labor Day this timepiece accompanied me on a two-hundred-foot drop up in Maine. The aeroplane was smashed to pieces, but the old Elgin strapped to the wheel still was ticking."

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Who doesn't recognize this famous and beautiful "movie" family? Read how they work hard and still preserve their good looks:

"I believe we are the largest acting family on the 'screen.' All of the children act and have done so since each was two months old. We are 'The Five Steuarts, and you've very likely seen some of us filmed with Ethel Barrymore in The Nightingale, Mabel Taliaferro in The Three of Us, etc., etc. Some kiddies, eh? In fact, I'm rather conceited about the whole family, except the fellow on the left end! But you should have seen him before he be-gan using Pompeian Massage Cream!

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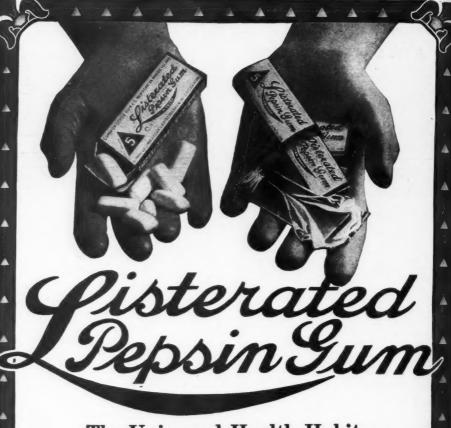
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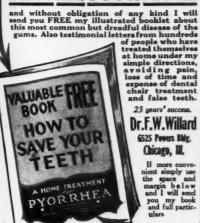
It is characterized (among other symptoms) by bleeding, discolored gums, receding gums, sensi-tive teeth, bad breath, and finally loosening and dropping out of the teeth.

DO YOU KNOW that 90 per cent of the people have it in the first, second or third stage?—

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The Co-Citizens

By Corra Harris

A quiet and secluded widow, incidentally a very large property owner, dies suddenly in a little Southern town. She leaves a will that works a social and political revolution. Immediately strange and mysterious things suddenly happen. The women know all about it, but the men don't. Wives and



daughters and sweethearts keep the secret, despite the frantic efforts of the men. The suspense is awful and the author keeps you guessing until the very end. We venture to say that this story will hold the interest of every clubwoman and reader of live fiction the country over.

Here is a typical Corra Harris situation, described with quaint but kindly humor, and with that rare insight into human nature—especially feminine nature—which has made her books so immensely popular. "The Co-Citizens" begins in May and will be finished in July—complete in three long instalments.

This story will be followed by a story complete in one number by Margaret Belle Houston, author of "The Little Straw Wife," etc. Then will come a delightful tale from the pen of Eleanor Hallowell Abbott, author of "The Sick-a-Bed Lady," "Mollie Make-Believe," etc. This story will be complete in two long instalments. Then will come a big gripping story of the Canadian North West by Sir Gilbert

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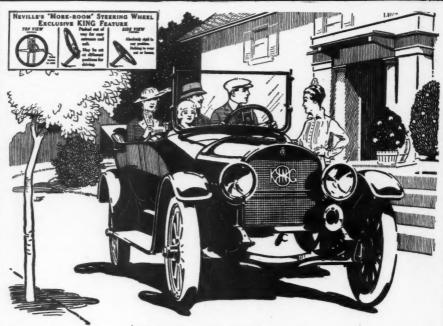
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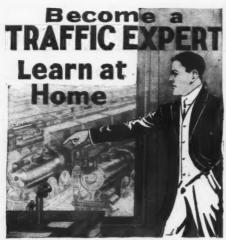
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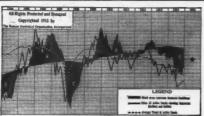
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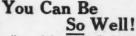
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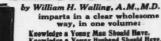
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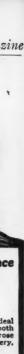
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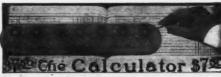
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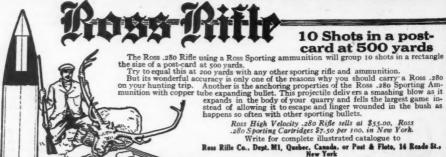
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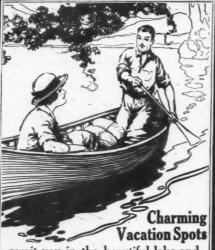
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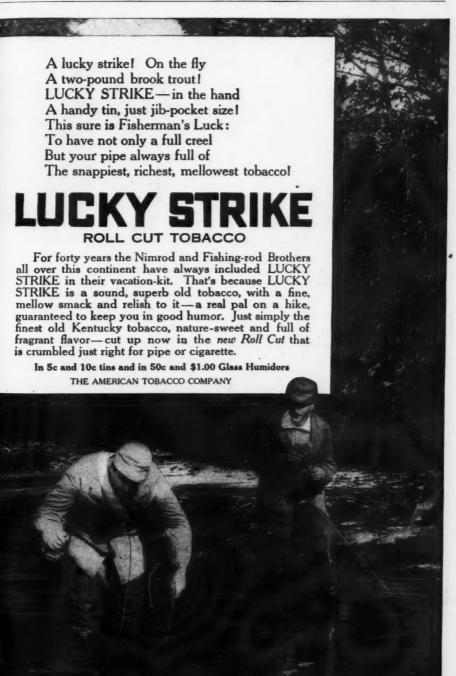
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Ah!—the best ever—and it makes more cups
to the pound.

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LET us send you a trial package. Then you can see for yourself that it is not only better and purer, but that it costs less per cup than ordinary coffee, as it makes more cups to the pound.

A Trial Can Free

SEND us your grocer's name and we will send you a trial can of Barrington Hall, enough to make six cups of delicious coffee, and booklet, "The Evolution of Barrington Hall." This explains the three stages of progress through which this famous coffee has passed.

At first Barrington Hall was sold whole or ground as ordinary coffee is today, then steel-cut with the bitter chaff removed, and finally Baker-ized. In it we have retained the good points of our older methods and adopted new features (explained in booklet) that make it economy without economizing. A luxury not at the expense of health, but one that is an aid to correct living.

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Steel-Cut Coffee lacks a little in quality and in evenness of granulation when compared with Baker-ized Barrington Hall, but the chaff with its objectionable taste is removed from it also. It is far superior to the so-called cut coffees that are offered in imitation of Baker-ized Coffee.

Our Coffee is for sale by grocers in all cities and most towns. Where not for sale, we will send it by Parcel Post prepaid until arrangements can be made with your grocer to supply you.

BAKER IMPORTING COMPANY

108 Hudson St., New York, N. Y. 252 No. Second St., Minneapolis, Minn.

Barrington Hall The Baker-ized Coffee

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Europe has the advantage in population, with more than four times as many people as the United States; in the number of large cities, with two and a half times as many cities of over 100,000 population.

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During the last forty years the steadily extending lines of the Bell System have contributed in no small measure to this amalgamating of different races. The latest achievement—the linking of coast to coast—has given greater force to the national motto, "E Pluribus Unum."

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Young men are showing how much they know about smart style in the way they

take to it; what suits young men, suits all men.

Look at the suits at \$25; you'll get fine quality and great value at that price.

Our label in clothes is a small thing to look for, a big thing to find.

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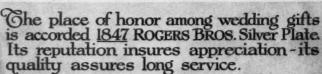




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